



HERMAN SHORT

Short denounces police policy on runaways

Post 8-14-72

By SAM FLETCHER
Post Reporter

Houston Police Chief Herman Short in a press conference Monday called claims that his department did not exert full effort in tracking missing youths who were victims of a homosexual murdering "a disgusting attempt of scapegoating."

Short called the 10 a.m. press meeting to "clarify and delineate department policy and the law relating to runaway juveniles and missing persons."

He said, "The recent tragedy involving murders of numerous juveniles has prompted some inferences that the Houston Police Department should have or could have proceeded with

more intense investigation of those children reported to us as runaways and later found to be victims of a sadistic murderer or murderers."

Short aimed his criticism at parents of runaways in general for not satisfying their parental obligations emphasizing, "This is not directed at the parents of these (dead) youths categorically. I know nothing about them."

He took a brief slap at media coverage of the killings, claiming, "The media has not been responsible in this." He cited the publication by media of a statement given by David Owen Brooks, 18, a suspect, and indicated he believed

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newsmen should "help us see this case through."

Claiming "parents all over the Heights area are pretty well misinformed" concerning possible ties among missing youths and their accused killers, Short said parents of runaways "sometimes don't tell us the truth" about such cases.

He said "no pattern" was evident in the disappearances and that "statistical data did not indicate a pattern in the 25th and 26th streets area, although many of the missing youths were from that region."

Short also claimed reports of "links" among the various victims and suspected killers are a myth "created by the media" and claimed, "it might make a better story but there just wasn't a link."

Many of the missing youths who may be among the victims lived within short distances of each other and suspects in the case. Parents of several of the boys claimed the youths knew each other and their alleged murderers.

Despite a claim he is "not pleased with anything" about the case, Short defended his department's investigation of missing youths and said in retrospect he "wouldn't change" the handling of such cases.

Short called for laws that would give police necessary authority to apprehend runaways.

Reading hurriedly from a six-page statement, he said, "According to (Harris County Juvenile Court Judge) Robert Lowery, there exists no statute or interpretation of the

per se as a violation of juvenile laws or penal code of this state.

He said, "Sam Robinson chief assistant district attorney, has reaffirmed the fact that runaway per se is not a crime and that the police may pursue runaway investigations only — and repeat, only — in a public service mode."

Short said, "The department's policy regarding processing and investigation of runaways is, of course, dictated by the parameters of the law. Every complaint is recorded and assigned a juvenile division case number. These cases are centralized at the missing juvenile desk where every case immediately upon receipt is reviewed."

He explained that, if information is available "that lends itself to a field investigation," the report is assigned for follow-up. If no information is provided by parents, said Short, the report is placed on file, with parents contacted "every seven to 10 days, depending on the number of runaways active" for "at least 30 days."

Short said parents are contacted usually by police or by mail if other methods fail — a claim which many parents of supposed murder victims have disputed.

He also said his department would "move pretty slowly" in notifying parents that their sons may be among the dead solely on the basis of statements given by suspects in the case. "We don't want to tell parents a thing until we know for sure," he said.

Officers Hunting For More Graves

Chronicle 8-13-73

William Ray (Billy) Lawrence, 15, was buried in a cemetery with simple rites today as authorities searched for more graves of victims of Houston's mass murders.

Lawrence, 310 W. 31st, was one of 23 known murder victims of sex perverts the past two years and one of only five of the teen-age male victims to be identified.

The search for more bodies continues near High Island on Bolivar Peninsula in Chambers County as relatives and friends hope to hear from missing loved ones.

But Police Sgt. G.S. Cox, of the juvenile division, says as far as is known not one of the 10,000 Houston youths missing the past two years has called waiting relatives and friends since the mass murders came to light Wednesday.

Frantic mothers whose vanished sons have been listed by officers as among those possibly slain called police Sunday to say they are being hounded by news media and the inquisitive.

As a result, police closed the records of possible victims to the media and public.

Some parents have criticized police for not thoroughly

probing cases of missing children.

The criticism prompted Police Chief Herman Short to call a news conference today to explain police department policy in the handling of runaway juvenile investigations and missing persons reports.

The critical parents were asking how so many boys could disappear without trace from the Houston Heights neighborhood in which young Lawrence and two other identified victims lived.

It was in that neighborhood

that Dean Corll, 33, a Houston Light and Power Co. employe, first appeared as the manager of a candy store that catered to the teen-age group.

Corll was killed Wednesday by Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, who said he shot Corll after a sex perversion, paint-sniffing party at Corll's Pasadena home.

Henley, who led police to Corll's Southwest Houston boat stall shed that yielded 17 bodies, said Corll killed the

(See OFFICERS, Page 2)

Officers Search for More Graves in Mass Murders

moved to another city.

Melder also said Henly will plead insanity. "I don't think anybody can say the actions that have taken place are normal — it smacks of insanity."

Melder, a criminal defense attorney has for about 20 years, said that none of his clients have ever gone to prison.

Also held is David Brooks, 18, of Houston, charged with being a principal in the strangling of young Lawrence.

Brooks has admitted witnessing several killings and burying some victims, but has denied murdering anyone.

Charles Melder, attorney for Henley, held without bond in Pasadena jail, has asked for a psychiatric hearing for Henley.

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Henley led officers to the first grave of Billy Lawrence in a little clearing near Lake Sam Rayburn in East Texas.

Pointing to the spot, Henley calmly remarked:

"Billy is buried there." The officers found Billy's body in the ground. It was brought to Houston and buried in Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery today.

Four bodies of victims have been unearthed near the lake and two more found in the sands of High Island, about 70 miles east of Houston.

Henley, a Hamilton Junior High School dropout at age 15, worked to help support his divorced mother and brothers.

He said he stopped working regularly and was paid to bring youths to Corll, who, he said, committed sodomy on them and killed them.

What needs can lead to sadistic murder?

If it's true that doing "sick" things to other people—such as abusing them sexually and killing them—is more a matter of being "diminished" than of being insane, how does a person come to being a "lesser" human?

Humanistic psychologists place much emphasis on will, self-responsibility and the meeting of one's needs. One of the founders of humanistic psychology, A. H. Maslow, said humans have a "hierarchy" of needs. If a person fulfills few of these needs, he is "diminished" as a human.

Under this theory, the idea of being "mentally sick" or "crazy" is replaced by the concept of how much progress a person has made along the road to "full-humanness." The more he has met his hierarchy of needs, the farther along he will be—and vice versa.

What are these human needs? First there is the need to satisfy the requirements of the body to have enough food to live and be physically intact. Next there is the need to feel secure—to have adequate income and some order in life, as well as to be safe in terms of protection from nature and destructive intruders.

These are man's "lower needs," Maslow said. The second need can't be addressed until

the first need is met—and so on up the ladder of needs.

The "higher needs" come next, and some people never get to them because they spend their lives working on fulfilling the lower



Dr. Blair Justice

needs. The majority of people, however, do get to the higher needs, and the first in this category is a need for love and a sense of belonging. Here, a number of people get "stuck." They never learn to love or to feel they fit in.

A sadistic murderer is an example of such a person. He never learned to express either affection or aggression in an acceptable way to others. Instead, he tries to meet his "love needs" by sexually abusing people. And the only way he can fit in with others is by having complete control over them.

By gagging, binding and killing his victim, the sadistic murderer can obtain complete

control. But before he kills, he tries to satisfy his "love needs." The attempt is never successful, however. Love needs require expression of affection. What the sadistic murderer expresses is pent-up aggression, not affection.

Thus, the sexual abusing and murdering may well continue. Nothing satisfies the sadist in such a situation because he is going about trying to fulfill love needs in a totally distorted way. Equally distorted is his way of feeling "safe" with people—by binding, gagging and finally killing them.

Such a person never gets to the next highest need—a need for self-esteem, of having regard for himself and admiration from others. He is too busy trying to meet love needs in a self-defeating manner.

Many people, however, do satisfy their love needs. What then comes next is the need to "self-actualize," to tap the human potential to be creative, autonomous, good, decent, kind. Those who satisfy many of the "self-actualizing" needs are people who are approaching "full-humanness."

Meanwhile, the sadistic murderer who is stuck on satisfying love needs in distorted ways is nowhere near full-humanness. He remains a pathetic example of a totally diminished human being.

What kind of man commits rape?

By DR. JOYCE BROTHERS

Most rapes go unreported, although this trend may be changing because in some sections it is becoming easier to prosecute rapists. What motivates the rapist? Test your knowledge and compare it to that of some authorities.

TRUE OR FALSE

1) Most rape stems from feelings of guilt.

2) Many rapists have deep fears about their possibly being homosexual.

3) Most rapes occur in summer.

4) Because men who commit rape are usually highly oversexed, if prostitution were legalized it might help to curb the incidence of rape.

5) Most rapists are older

men who cannot find a normal sexual outlet.

6) There seems to be no particular pattern to either the wives or mothers of rapists.

7) Rapes usually occur on the spur of the moment and are unplanned.

8) Rapists are usually of below-average intelligence.

ANSWERS

1) TRUE. Dr. Nicholas Growth, psychologist, says most rapes stem from feelings of guilt. The rapist sees sex as dirty and degrading. By raping—stealing what he wants—the rapist expresses the deep anger and hatred he feels for women.

2) TRUE. Most rapists feel insecure about their masculinity and some may commit

rape to prove their masculinity to themselves. Studies have revealed that rapists have strong homosexual tendencies and that they fear homosexuality.

3) TRUE. Rapes occur most frequently from May to October, hitting a crest in August. Saturday is the peak

day, and the highest risk hours are between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m.

4) FALSE. First of all, rapists are not oversexed. Often, they are undersexed and totally unable to have a rewarding, sexually fulfilling relationship with a woman. Rape is more an act of anger than a sexual act. It is the result of an inadequate sex drive combined with aggression.

5) FALSE. The most common age of the offender is 18. Most rapists are under 30.

6) FALSE. According to a study by sociologist Norman Goldner there is a distinct pattern in both the wives and mothers of rapists. Studies have revealed that according to reports of rapists, their mothers alternated between

being sexually overstimulating to their sons and cruel. The wives, according to the rapists, were sexually unresponsive.

7) FALSE. According to Dr. Goldner, rapes are usually planned, and most of the crimes take place in the rapist's neighborhood. Victims are found on the street or in their residence or sometimes are invited into the offender's home.

8) TRUE. Rapists are characterized by extremely low intelligence, according to a study of one prison's population. In general, sex offenders are single, unskilled workers with low education and low income.

If you answered six out of eight questions correctly, you and the experts seem to agree on the psychological motivation of rapists.



Ask Dr. Brothers

Violation of rights claimed

Post 8-13-73

By JOHN IRA PETTY

Post Reporter

Lawyers for Elmer Wayne Henley, charged with five counts of murder in the series of homosexual-torture killings that has shaken the nation, said the youth's constitutional rights have been violated during the investigation.

They also charge he is being kept in a cold, padded cell by Pasadena police and that he does not have adequate clothing.

The lawyers, Edwin F. Pegelow and Charles Melder, said they didn't know where Henley was until Friday night, more than 48 hours after his arrest.

"They won't give him a blanket," said Melder, who estimated the temperature in the cell this morning at about 60 degrees. "He was shaking like a leaf."

"He's disoriented as to time," said Pegelow, "so disoriented that we wonder if what he has said is true, in many instances, or if he is just confused."

Both lawyers say that although they

have not had time for in depth interviews with their client, it appears now they will base their defense on insanity, coupled with possible duress on the part of Dean Allen Corll.

"He was so young when he met Corll three years ago," said Pegelow. "It appears he became an extension of Dean Corll's personality—and did what he wanted him to do."

On the rights question, Pegelow said: "Certainly there have been many, many violations of his constitutional rights. He was not warned, not brought before a magistrate immediately..."

He said Henley had confessed, "under what we feel was the greatest duress. Obviously if we had been there he would not have made any statements at all."

"The state has a duty of proving his guilt. The constitution provides that he not be convicted out of his own mouth unless he voluntarily and knowingly waives his rights."

Melder said: "Our information is that he wasn't properly warned of his constitutional rights—he has a right to a lawyer—and that he didn't intelligently waive that right."

Of a possible insanity plea, Melder said: "I don't think anybody can say the actions that have taken place are normal—it smacks of insanity. Further, the boy is disoriented."

Pasadena police had no comment on the allegations relating to the temperature in the cell and Henley's clothing.

Melder said he does not plan to ask for a change of venue in the matter. "We think the boy can get a fair trial in Harris County as well as he can in West Texas. I'm sure the publicity has been the same in El Paso as in Houston."

Quick Action Urged For Youth Houses

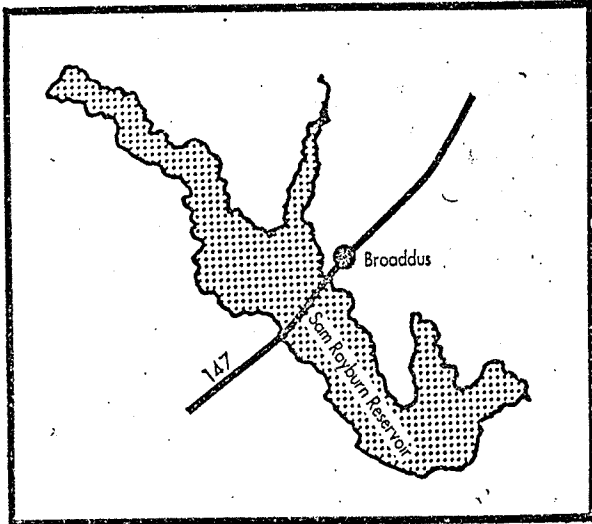
Chron 8-14
Washington (UPI) — The slayings of at least 27 boys in Houston has reemphasized the need for quick congressional action on legislation to create a system of national runaway houses, according to Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., and Rep. William J. Keating, R-Ohio.

The Senate has passed a bill to establish a nationwide police reporting procedure to enable parents of runaways to locate their children and provide halfway houses for runaways. The House has yet to act on the measure.

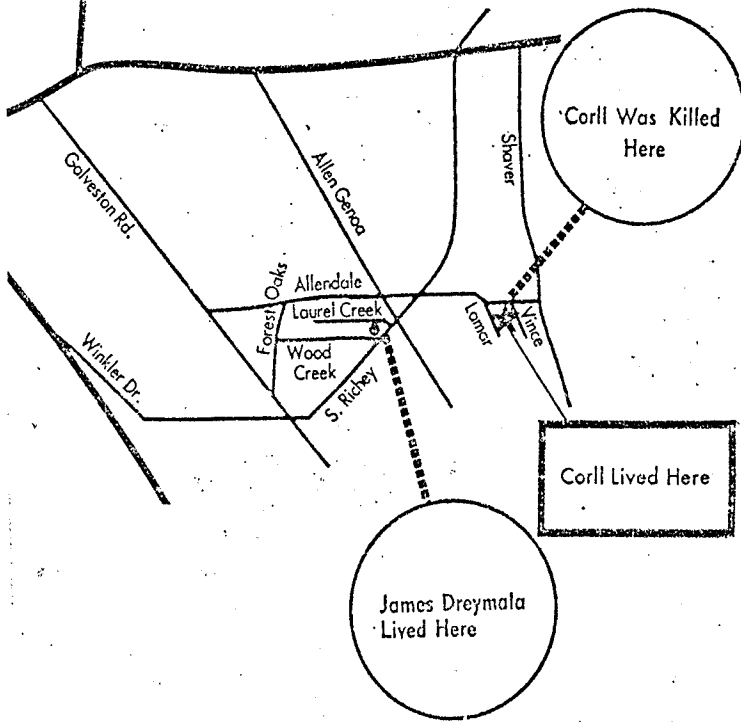
Keating urged that House hearings be held on the bill as soon as possible. The Houston killings "demonstrate that the problems of runaways or young people believed to be runaways demand constructive action," he said.

Mondale, who steered the bill through the Senate said: "These murders highlight the potential tragedy facing these troubled children who are estranged from their families."

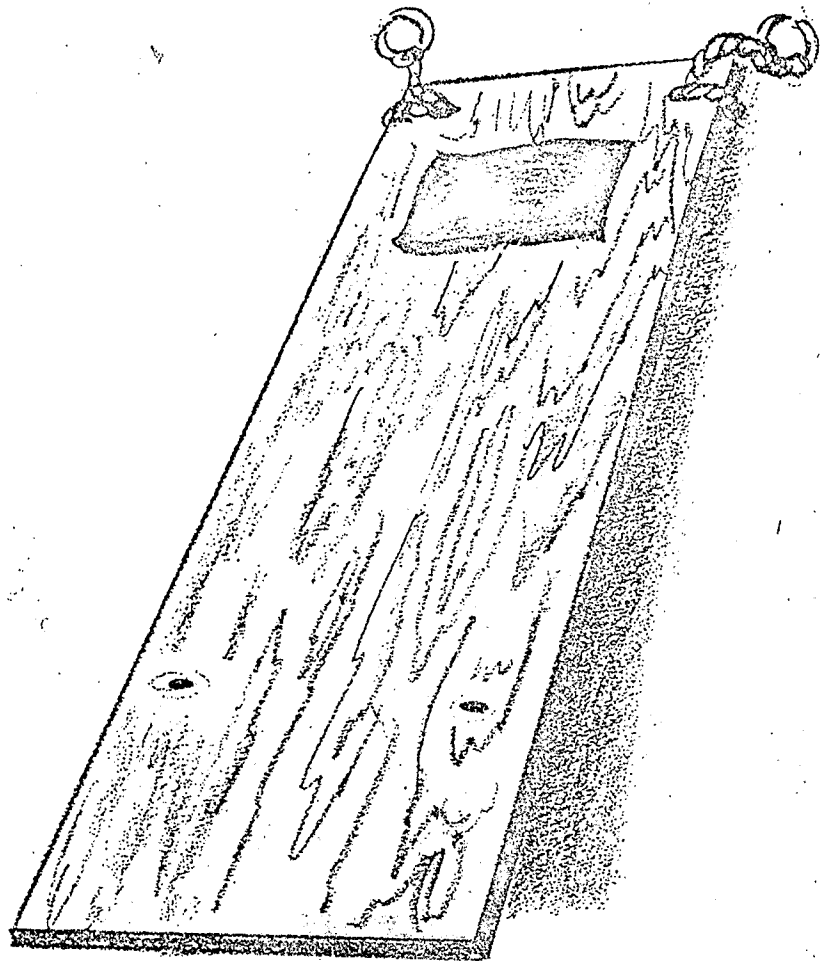
Death-Sex-Torture Saga



The map above shows major addresses in the Houston horror story. The almost unbelievable tale began unfolding with the shooting of Dean Corll by Wayne Henley on Lamar Dr. in Pasadena Wednesday morning. It was one of the most unusual sagas of death-after-sex-and-torture in American history. Wednesday night, Henley took police to a boat storage shed on Silver Bell St., where 17 bodies were found. From there, the investigators took their shovels to the shores of Lake Sam Rayburn where four more were found, and then to High Island between Galveston and Beaumont, where two others were recovered. The search isn't over. Nor is the fear that more bodies will be found.



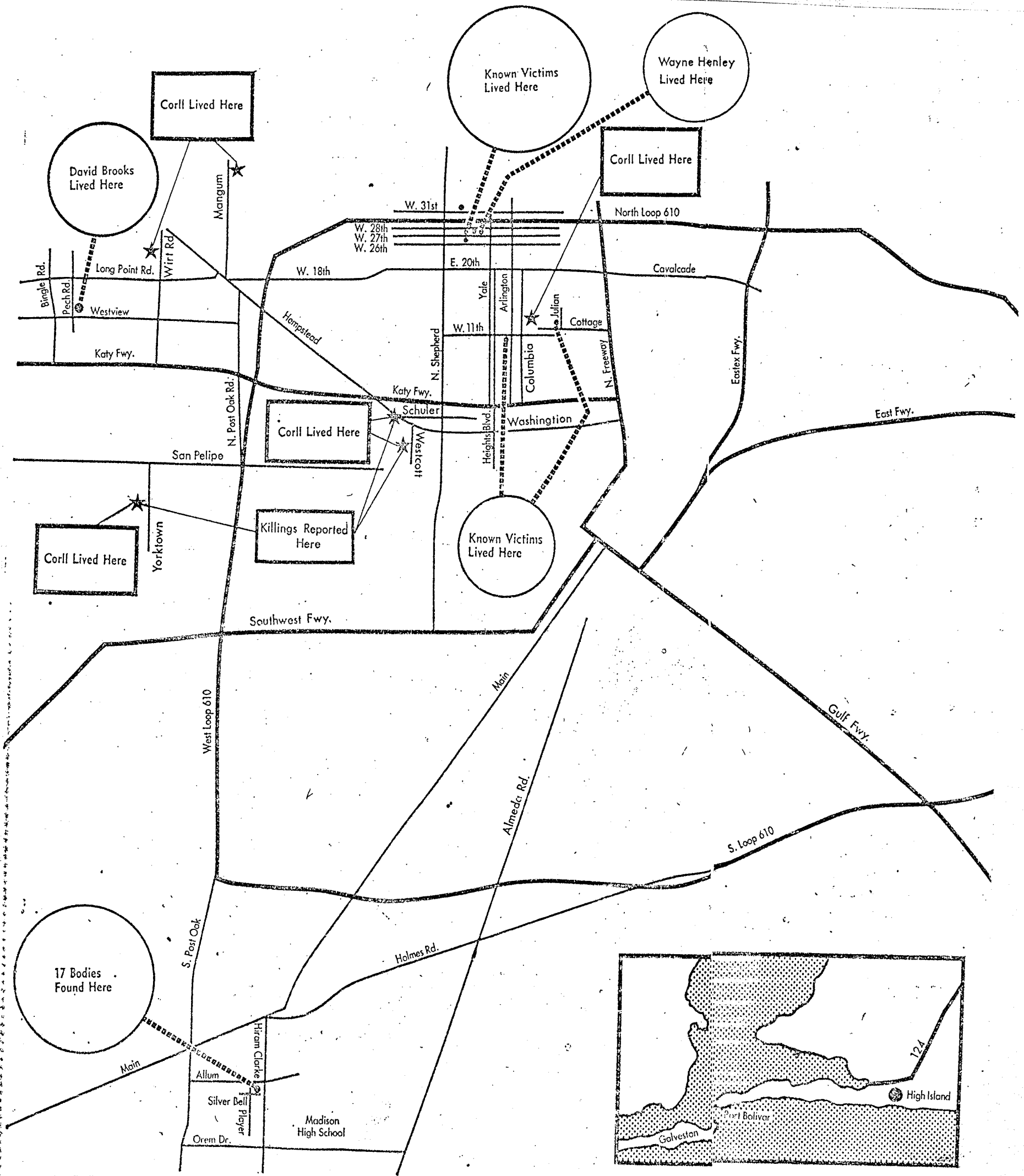
Chen 8-12-73



This is an artist's sketch similar to a photograph taken for police records of an 8-foot by 3-foot heavy plywood board found at the Pasadena home of Dean Allen Corll, where a police spokesman said victims were held by handcuffs and ropes during alleged sex orgies. A pillow is shown at the top. The handcuffed victims apparently were

held with ropes placed around the feet and inserted through holes, shown below. The murder of Corll, 33, resulted in statements by his admitted killer, Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, which led to the unearthing of 23 victims linked to the sex orgies and mass murder. Police expected to find more bodies when the search resumes Monday.

The Major Sites in the



'I haven't heard from him since'

Post 8-12-73

By TOM KENNEDY

Post Reporter

Horace J. "Jimmy" Lawrence choked back the tears Saturday as he told the story of his son, Billy.

Lawrence, 46, never reported Billy missing since he thought he was in Austin working with a teen-aged rock group.

Billy, 15, had been learning how to play the guitar and told his daddy he was going "on tour" with the group the first week in June.

"Just who this group was I don't know," the elder Lawrence explained. "You know these kids, they don't tell you anything."

On June 11 Billy wrote a short letter which said:

"Dear Daddy,

"I've decided to go to Austin because I have a good job offer. I'm sorry I decided to leave. I just had to go.

"I hope you understand that I had to go. Daddy, I hope you know I love you.

"Your son Billy."

Lawrence was solemn when he said, "I haven't heard a



WILLIAM LAWRENCE

Please see Page 2A

word from him since. I never suspected anything was wrong. I had no idea..."

The body believed to be that of Billy Lawrence was found Thursday at Sam Rayburn Reservoir. A day later murder charges were filed against David Brooks, 18, who with Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, also was implicated in the deaths of 23 victims in a mass slaying ring.

Lawrence, who has worked in the mail room of The Houston Post for the last 14 years, said his son lived with him at 311 W. 31st St. Mrs. Lawrence died in 1965.

Frequently Billy would bring his friends home, introducing them only by first names, Lawrence said.

He recalls one friend whom his son referred to as "Wayne."

A young man who identified himself as "Wayne" called the house July 2 asking for Billy, Lawrence said.

"He was inquiring about Billy," the father said. "He said his name was Wayne and I assume this was, well you have no way of knowing, but I assume this was this party."

Lawrence was talking about Wayne Henley.

Two nights later the house was burglarized. "Whoever did it had been here at this house," he said. "They knew the layout pretty well. They got the stereo I had given my son for his birthday last March. They got cameras and guns, things like that.

"I believe my son may have been alive at the time. It could have even been him all piled up. He had been on marijuana and pills from time to time. He might have still been alive at that particular time."

Lawrence learned of his son's death Friday when a friend called to tell him he had read it in the paper.

"I was never contacted at all (by authorities)," he recalled. "I called San Augustine County Sheriff Johnny Hoyt and gave him a physical description of my son.

"He called back later, yesterday around noon, and confirmed that one of the bodies was Billy."

Billy had been an eighth grader at Booker T. Washington Junior High School. For about four months before he left home for Austin he worked with his father and brother, James Michael, a 22-year-old electrician, on Saturday nights in the mailroom of The Post.

The three would work together putting together the Sunday newspaper and prepare it to be mailed.

Lawrence said he does not remember Billy mentioning Brooks' name, nor the name of Dean Allen Corll, 33, whose death broke open the grotesque case Wednesday. Corll also was an electrician.

"Maybe if some of these kids would realize what was going on out there in that jungle they would wake up and face the facts of life and face reality," Lawrence said.

He said he probably knew many of the boys who were killed in the homosexual ring but "only by their first names."

Services for Billy Lawrence will be at 3:30 p.m. Monday in Forest Park Funeral Home. Other survivors include two uncles and an aunt.

Lawrence was asked how he felt about his son's killer or killers. He replied:

"You know we have courts to serve on this. It's not my place to pass judgment on these men.

"God only has the right to pass judgment," he said, once again choking back the tears. "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."

Area, German crimes contain similarities

Post 8-12-73

By MIRIAM KASS

Post Medical Writer

Fritz Haarmann, who was known as the ogre of Hanover (Germany), was responsible for mass murders that were probably more similar to the ones discovered this week in Houston than most other mass murders in recent history.

"It might have been 30, it might have been 40, I don't remember," Haarmann was quoted in a report on violence of mass and multiple murder.

Haarmann, who lived from 1879 to 1925, was found guilty of 24 murders, which also involved sexual perversion.

The height of his murderous career occurred after World War I, when he became active in the black market.

"By killing children and young men he was able to combine sexual perversion with financial profit from sale of their clothes and (it is believed) their flesh in the form of black market sausages," reported Frazier from a review of literature on the subject.

"Haarmann, a police informer, used to pose as a detective and would either entice or use his authority as a 'detective' to persuade his victims to come to his apartment."

Haarmann was aided by a younger homosexual partner.

Before his death Haarmann requested that his fellow murderer lay a wreath on his grave on his birthdays.

Haarmann's father was described as an ill-tempered locomotive stoker with whom he frequently fought and whom he hated. His mother became bedridden after his birth. Three sisters were prostitutes, a brother was a sex offender, and another brother was considered a respectable citizen.

At 17 Haarmann was sent to a mental hospital after he was accused of molesting children. He escaped, and later was imprisoned for theft, burglary, larceny and sexual offenses.

When the father of one missing boy confronted him in court Haarmann denied interest in the boy, saying, "I have my tastes after all. Such an ugly creature as, according to his photographs, your son must have been, I would never have taken to."

Another famous mass murderer who combined homosexuality and sadism was Peter Kurten, "the monster of Dusseldorf," who lived from 1883 to 1931, when he was found guilty of nine murders and was executed.

He was the son of a brutal, alcoholic and incestuous father, said Frazier, and had a history of fire-setting and cruelty to animals and chil-

dren. His victims included both sexes and various ages.

From his survey of mass killings Frazier drew a number of conclusions.

Among them:

- The personalities and psychological processes in each case varied.

- Often the murderers were repeatedly humiliated in childhood and felt worthless and inadequate as adults.

- The murderers often have smoldering rage built up in them, and it often continues after their crimes are discovered and they are imprisoned—though they occasionally deny their feelings.

- Most incarcerated murderers say they would do it again in similar circumstances.

- Sometimes the murderer is paranoid, feeling that everyone is out to get him. When this is true, it is usually a feeling that has been with him a long time. These same kinds of people often also have been without a father or have a father who does not believe in them.

- In many cases, the criminals had a past history of fighting, sexual misbehavior, killing of animals, and indiscriminate use of guns.

- Sexual intercourse sometimes occurs after the murder.

- Many are fearful and feel guilty about things they did in childhood that might have been considered bad—including masturbation—and were haunted by the feeling that everyone could look at them and tell the truth.

Though those cases involving homosexuality are stressed in this report on Frazier's paper, those who have studied violent behavior often deny the common assumption

that homosexuals are more likely to perpetrate such crimes than heterosexuals are.

In an interview Frazier stressed that while impressions may be drawn from interviews and psychiatric profiles of such murderers it is impossible to specify exactly what it is that finally determines who will commit such crimes.

'Beyond Borderline of Crime'

Vatican on Killings: *Chron 8-12-73* 'Domain of the Devil'

Vatican City (AP) — The Vatican's daily newspaper said Saturday that Houston's multiple sex killings belong to the domain of the devil.

"We are in the domain of sadism and demonism," Osservatore Romano said in an editorial under the headline: "Horror."

The editorial was signed by an asterisk, a symbol usually indicating someone close to the Pope.

"This is beyond the borderline of crime because it is beyond the borderline of reason," the writer said. "What wicked force can produce such a degradation — we were about to say dissolution — of man?"

He said the degradation was produced by "two incentives, sex and drugs," and added:

"One kills to the point of so cruel and inhuman aberrations because one is no longer a man, but an evil force. The two monsters — sex and drugs — have generated a

new and different being — monstrous and demoniac."

(There has been no indication that drugs were used by Dean Corll, his cohorts or his victims. Paint was sniffed during at least one party).

The editorial echoed a speech last year in which Pope Paul VI said moral corruption was bringing some groups of people under the "dominance of Satan."

Vatican editorial says mass slayings in devil's domain

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"One kills to the point of so cruel and inhuman aberrations because one is no longer a man, but an evil force . . . The two monsters — sex and drugs — have generated a new and different being — monstrous and demoniac."

Mother's grief

The horror of the Houston mass murders came into grim focus Saturday as a grief-stricken mother threw herself onto the casket of her son, the first victim to be buried.

Mrs. Bettye Jo Shirley's face mirrored the unspeakable sadness which has trailed in the wake of the slayings as she sobbed "My baby, my baby" at brief graveside services in Forest Park West Cemetery.

Then, breaking away from consoling relatives, she lunged for the silver casket containing the body of her son, Marty Ray Jones.

The 18-year-old youth was a strangulation victim of the slaying ring which has already yielded 23 victims.

About 60 relatives and young friends came to the services. Some sat straight-faced. Others sobbed softly.

Friends trying to escort Mrs. Shirley from the gravesite listened sadly as she protested, "I don't want to leave until I have to. I want to be close to my baby."

—Post-photo by
Danny Connolly



Photo by DORIS C. OWENBY JR., Chronicle Staff

WAYNE HENLEY POINTS TO GRAVESITE ON HIGH ISLAND
More Bodies Are Expected to Be Found When Search Resumes Monday

Chron 8-12-73

DA's Aide: It's Not in New Law

BY ED DESWYSEN
Chronicle Staff

The district attorneys' chief prosecutor said Saturday he has "serious reservations" that Texas' newly enacted death penalty can be applied to principals in the sex-torture slayings of 23 teen-agers.

"The legislature did not provide that murder committed during just any felony could be punishable by death," said Sam Robertson, first assistant district attorney.

"The new death penalty applies only to those felonies enumerated in the law," Robertson said. These include murder during the commission of kidnaping, burglary, forcible rape and arson.

However, Robertson said he would reserve judgment on his supposition until the investigation of the slayings has been completed.

Two Houston teen-agers were charged Saturday in three of the multiple slayings which were linked to orgies in a bachelor electrician's home. They are Elmer Wayne Hen-

ley, 17, of 325 W. 27th, and David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Michael Hinton, who filed the charges, said he expects to present evidence to the Harris County grand jury early this week, "probably Tuesday."

Hinton said he anticipates a plea for a change of venue because of the notoriety of the case.

He said he was "astounded" by the amount of publicity given the case throughout the country. He added: "I don't know where we are going to get a change of venue to—Canada, to London?"

Hinton said both suspects will be placed in the Harris County jail Monday. Brooks has been held in the Houston city jail and Henley at the Pasadena jail.

The official said authorities may hold murder suspects either in the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed or in which the body was discovered.

He said law enforcement officials continued to question the two youths throughout the weekend. "The investigation is far from being concluded at this time," he said.

Henley, a junior high school dropout who first unfolded the tale of lust and death to police last week, is accused of strangling Marty Jones, 18, of 1015 Arlington, and shooting

Death Penalty May Not Apply To Principals in Sex Killings

Chronicle 8-12-73
FROM PAGE 1

Charles Cary Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th St.

Brooks is charged with taking part in the strangling of William Ray Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st St.

So far, law enforcement officials have uncovered the bodies of 23 boys, all believed to be teen-agers, in makeshift graves in Houston and at isolated spots near Lake Sam Rayburn in San Augustine County and High Island on the Gulf Coast in Chambers County.

Henley told police of the slayings which apparently occurred over a two to three-year period when he reported Wednesday that he shot and killed the central sex-torture-death figure, Dean Allen Corll, 33, who lived at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena.

The youth said he shot Corll in self-defense in the victim's home early Wednesday during a sex orgy.

Henley described Corll as a homosexual sadist who had hired him and Brooks to procure young boys for unnatural sex acts.

Neighbors, who had not suspected the goings-on inside the modest frame cottage in Pasadena, described Corll as "a quiet, polite man who loved kids."

Henley called police after the shooting of Corll, and began detailing the killings. He led police to a boat storage shed on Silver Bell St. in Southwest Houston, seventeen bo-

dies were found buried in a stall rented by Corll.

Mrs. Mayme E. Meynier, operator of Southwest Boat Storage who rented the stall to Corll in November, 1970, said police have asked her "to wait a few more days before doing anything with that stall." They may want to do more digging there.

"That boy (Henley) kept saying all along there were 19 bodies in there and they only got 17," she said.

Mrs. Meynier said law enforcement authorities notified her that they will remove several inches of the topsoil from the dirt floor and replace it with a shell surface.

Other Burial Sites
After uncovering the 17 bodies from the floor of the boat stall, law enforcement officers escorted Henley Thursday to the Piney Woods of East Texas to search for more bodies buried near Lake Sam Rayburn.

Henley pointed to a lime-covered mound in a forest clearing near the reservoir and said: "Billy's buried there."

The body was identified from dental records as William Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31 St.

Henley then pointed out other burial mounds in the area which yielded three more bodies which have not yet been identified.

The youth claimed that Corll killed each of the four victims during sex parties, but that he, Henley, and his friend, Brooks, assisted in

disposing of the bodies in the woods.

Both Henley and Brooks led officers to the High Island area Friday in search of more bodies they said Corll buried along the beach.

Both suspects pointed to a white rock on the beach about two miles southeast of the High Island community. They said it marked the grave of an unknown youth.

They said they first saw the rock when they had gone to the beach with Corll to bury another body.

Corll, they said, told them the rock was a grave marker for an earlier victim.

Officials found a badly decomposed body beneath the rock.

Later, a bulldozer scraped a strip down the beach, uncovering a layer of lime. Workmen dug down about three feet, exposing the skeleton of another youth.

The suspects said "at least" four more bodies were buried along the beach, but they were unable to pinpoint the sites.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Hinton said he expects that more bodies will be found when digging operations resume at both places on Monday.

"At this point, it's just as important to clear up the status of these missing boys as it is to go forward with the prosecution of the suspects," Hinton said.

Both Henley and Brooks claim that Corll killed most of the youths after molesting them during orgies at several apartments in Houston and at his bungalow in Pasadena.

Henley told police he participated in nine of the slaying. Brooks claims that he witnessed several of the incidents but did not kill any of the victims.

Autopsies on bodies intensify

Post 8-12-73

By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

While youths frolicked in hot Saturday afternoon sunshine in Hermann Park, medical examiners worked under bright morgue lights a few hundred yards away, identifying teen-aged carnage left by crazed killers.

Chief Harris County Medical Examiner Joseph Jachimczyk said two bodies taken from the Southwest Houston boatshed burial site had been identified. They are Jerry Lynn Waldrop, 13, and his brother, Donald Edward Waldrop, 15.

Police say the pair was among those killed by Dean Corll, 33, with the possible help of Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, and David Owen Brooks, 18.

Jachimczyk and his staff intensified their work on nearly two dozen bodies in the mor-

gue, located in the Ben Taub Hospital basement.

Remains from "regular" Houston violence slowed them in their efforts to perform autopsies and positively identify victims.

Ten bodies were handled Saturday afternoon, and 11 remained untouched. The doctor said the usual load of autopsy work continues "and as soon as we get a break, we get back to work on these."

"Ideally what we would like to do is keep going right on through... but it will take at least through next week and possibly the week after that."

Two bodies were identified earlier by his office. They were Marty Ray Jones, 18, and Charles Cary Cobble, 17, who had lived together at an apartment at 304 W. 27th St.

"Ten are being processed and four (of those) have been identified," Jachimczyk said. "That's a .400 batting average in a 48-hour period."

San Augustine County investigators earlier identified one of four victims found near Sam Rayburn Reservoir as William Ray "Billy" Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st St. His body was returned to his parents.

Decomposition of the bodies will hinder the identification, Jachimczyk reported, but he said that he expects all eventually to be identified.

Finger and hand prints are being compared on the first body recovered at the boatshed. Jachimczyk said that body was the best preserved.

Those corpses which have been in the ground for more than a year will be harder to identify, according to medical investigator Eddie Knowles.

The Waldrop brothers, who vanished July 26, were identified by their father, Everett Waldrop of Atlanta, Ga. He recognized their belt buckles, clothes and a shirt—one

brother routinely tore off one pocket, investigators said.

"These were young kids involved," Knowles said. "Most have no police records—and no record of fingerprints." After about a year, the finger and foot prints become unrecognizable.

Jachimczyk added that many of the youths, unlike older persons, have few or no dental records.

Jones and both Waldrop brothers were strangled, and Cobble was shot twice in the head with a .22 caliber pistol. The slugs removed are being compared with a pistol found in Corll's home at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena.

Police say other possible victims could include these missing youths:

• Jay Simineaux, 15, of 1213 W. 24th.

• Willard Branch, 19, of 5202 Nina Lee.

• Ruben Wilford Watson, 17, of 1100 Arlington.

• James Eugene Glass, 14, of 1706 Wycliff.

• Mark Scott, 18, of 927 W. 25th.

• Gregory Hilligiest, 13, of 402 W. 27th.

• James Stanton Drey-mala, 13, of 5411 Laurel Creek.

• Homer Garcia, 18, of 5474 Darnell.

• Frank Aguirre, 18, of 932 W. Cottage.

• Richard Edward Hembree, 13, of 1426 W. 21st.

• A Billy Balch and Johnny Malone, named in statements to police by Corll's alleged accomplices as two other victims.

Mom couldn't bear TV reports

By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

Medical examiners rushed to keep up with the additional bodies uncovered Friday, but there was no hurry for relatives of possible victims of Dean Corll and his friends.

The mother of one probable victim said she turned off all news reports because she couldn't bear to listen to them any more.

Mrs. Walter Scott, of 927 W. 25th, clutched the last link to

her missing son Mark — a postcard—and rubbed her reddened eyes.

"We feared the worst," she said. "It didn't seem right that he would mail us a card

and then not contact us at all for a year and a half."

Mark, 18, had left home for a weekend trip to Mexico after being arrested for carrying a prohibited knife.

"How are you doing? I am

'It didn't seem right that he would . . . not contact us . . . for a year and a half.'

in Austin for a couple of days. I found a good job. I am making \$3 an hour. I'll be home when I get enough money to pay my lawyer," he wrote on the postcard. The

lawyer was handling the knife arrest.

Mrs. Scott said she remembered both young men implicated in the killings—David Brooks and Elmer Wayne Henley.

"Wayne came over for a junior high school party we had," she said. "He was quite talkative. Wayne was the first to arrive and the last to leave."

She remembered Brooks as

Please see Family/page 23A

Family of missing teen 'feared worst'

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the teenager Mark invited to stay with him overnight. Brooks accidentally shot their son in the leg with a BB gun, she said.

Brooks also remembered young Scott in his statement to police. He said Mark tried to "get" Corll with a knife, but gave up when Henley got a pistol. Brooks said he thought Scott was strangled.

Medical examiners identified two bodies recovered from Corll's southwest Houston boat shed. Marty Ray Jones, 18, whose last known address was 1010 Woodland, had been shot twice in the head, and Charles Cary Cobble, 17, son of the G. T. Cobble of 394 W. 27th, was strangled.

Other feared victims:

- Ruben Wilford Watson, 17, son of Mrs. Eugene Haney of the 1100 block of Arlington. Brooks told police a "Ruben

Haney" was the first victim at Corll's 6363 San Felipe apartment. The teenager had been reported missing Aug. 17, 1971.

- James Eugene Glass, 14, of 1706 Wycliff. Brooks said he tried to take the boy back to his home, but he wanted to return to Corll's Columbia apartment. Brooks said he is not positive the victim was Glass.

- Brothers Frank and Jerry Waldrop, who stayed with a third brother, Edward, at 904 Tulane. Brooks said two brothers were strangled by Corll.

- William Lawrence, 15, son of Horace Lawrence of 310 W. 31st St. Henley led officers to a grave near Sam Rayburn Reservoir Thursday afternoon and said, "Billy's buried there." He said the victim was Billy Lawrence, who had been missing since June 3.

- Gregory Malley Winkle, 15, of 407 W. 26th. Winkle, son of Mrs. Selma Winkle, dis-



Watson

Scott

appeared in May, 1971. He was a close friend of Mark Scott.

- David Hilligiest, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilligiest of 402 W. 27th. He was last seen May 30, 1971 with Winkle.

- James Stanton Drey-mala, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas Drey-mala of 5411 Laurel Creek. He left on a red "bicycle, later found at the boatshed where 17 bodies were found, and telephoned his parents and said he was staying at an all night party.

- Homer Garcia, 15, of 5474 Darnell. He called home July 17 and said he was going to party and would spend the night with a friend. Police said Garcia had attended a driving school with Henley.

- Frank Aguirre, 18, of 932 W. Cottage. He was reported missing Christmas eve, 1972. Aguirre was a former boyfriend of a 15-year-old girl who was at Corll's 2020 Lamar address when Corll was killed.

- Richard Edward Hembree, 13, son of William M. Green of 1426 W. 21st. His brother called from South Carolina when he heard of the killings and said Hembree had disappeared Oct. 2, 1972.

- Billy Balch and Johnny Malone. Investigators are not certain of the identities of these two teenagers reported by Brooks to have been killed by Corll. Brooks also said a small blond boy from South Houston and a boy from Baton Rouge were victims.

Youths Feared Among Mass Murder Victims

Although the body count in the Dean Corll mass murder case has climbed to 23, identification has been made on only five victims.

Marty Ray Jones, 18, 1015 Arlington, and Charles Cary Cobble, 17, 394 W. 27th, have been identified from dental records by County Medical

Examiner Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk.

Donald Edward Waldrop, 15, and Jerry Lynn Waldrop, 13, brothers from Atlanta, Ga., were identified from clothing on the bodies and bone structure.

William Ray Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st St., was tenta-

tively identified from dental records, hair and stature by Dr. Jack Pruitt of Lufkin and the youth's father.

Cobble had been shot twice in the head with a .22-caliber pistol. Jones and Lawrence had been strangled.

Jachimczyk says it will take "a while" to complete exami-

nations of the other bodies.

"We have X-rays on the rest of the bodies and some are disjointed," Jachimczyk said. "We have many bones and we don't know which go with which bodies."

Police fear that some of the badly decomposed bodies may never be identified.

Homicide detective Lt. Breck Porter said "it's a mammoth, tedious job, and it's going to take months to check the few things we've got to go on."

As the bodies were recovered, they were placed in

(See YOUTHS, Page 9)

FROM PAGE 1

white plastic bags and taken to the medical examiner's office. Four dentists, four pathologists and their assistants are engaged in the work at the morgue.

Police say they have reason to believe that the following youths, previously reported missing, are among the victims:

- Frank A. Aguirre, 19, of 932 W. Cottage.

- David Hilligiest, 13, of 402 W. 27th.

- Jay Simineaux, 15, of 1213 24th.

- Gregory Malley Winkle, 16, of 407 W. 26th.

- Ruben Watson, 17, of 2317 Beall.

- Homer Garcia, 15, of 5474 Darnell.

- Richard Hembree, 13, of 1426 W. 21st.

- James Stanton Drey-mala, 14, of 5411 Laurel Creek.

- Willard Branch Jr., 19, of 5202 Nina Lee.

- James Eugene Glass, 14, of 1706 Wycliffe.

- Mark Steven Scott, 18, of 927 W. 25th.

The latest youth tied to the crimes is David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech. Although he denies any direct role in the killings, Brooks says he witnessed a number of the slay-

ings and helped bury some of the bodies. In his statement to the police, Brooks gave these names to the list of possible victims:

- John Malone and Bill Balsch, ages unknown.

- "Blondie," said to be from South Houston, reportedly killed at 2020 Lamar, Pasadena.

- Two unknown youths, reportedly killed at Westcott Towers Apts., 904 Westcott.

'I never actually killed anyone,' youth says

Post 8-11-73

The following is the statement given by David Brooks to Houston police Friday.

My name is David Brooks. I am 18 years old and I live at 1445 Pech with my wife Bridget.

The first killing that I remember happened when Dean was living at the Yorktown townhouses. The first few that

Dean killed supposed to have been sent off somewhere in California.

I never actually killed anyone but I was in the room when they happened and was supposed to help if something went wrong. The first was Yorktown and these were two boys there and I left before they were killed but Dean told me that he had killed them afterwards. I

don't know who they were or where they are buried.

The first I remember was at 6363 San Felipe. It was Ruben Haney and only Dean and I. I also remember two boys who were killed at the Place One Apartments. They were brothers whose father worked next door where they were building some more apartments. I

was present when Dean killed these boys by strangling them but again I didn't help. The youngest of these boys is the youngest of all of them.

On Columbia just before Wayne came into the picture Dean kept this boy around the house for about four days before he killed him. I don't remember his name but we picked him up on 11th and

Rutland. I think I helped bury this boy also but I don't remember where it was. This was about two years ago. It really upset Dean to have to kill this boy because he really liked him.

Glass also was killed at Columbia. I had taken him home one time but he wouldn't get out because he wanted to

Please see 'I never' page 23A

'I never . . . killed anyone'

From page 1

go back to Dean. I took him back and Dean ended up killing him. Now that I think about it I'm not sure it was Glass but I believe it was.

When we were living on Columbia Wayne got involved. Wayne took part in getting the boys at first and then later took an active part in the killings. Wayne seemed to enjoy causing pain and was especially sadistic at the Schuler address.

Most of the killings after Wayne got involved had all three of us but I still did not take part in the actual killings. Mark Scott was killed at the Schuler. I had told yesterday in my witness statement about Mark Scott being at the Schuler house. But I did not say that I was present which I was. Mark had a knife and he tried to get Dean. He swung at him with a knife and caught Dean's shirt and barely broke the skin. He still had one hand tied and Dean grabbed the hand and Wayne ran out of the room and got a pistol and Mark just gave up. Wayne killed Mark Scott and I think that he strangled him. Mark was either buried at the beach or at the boat-house.

There was a Billy Balsch and one named Johnny, I think Malone. Wayne strangled Billy and he said, "Hey Johnny, ny," and when Johnny looked up Wayne shot him in the forehead with a .25 automatic. The bullet came out of his ear and he raised up and about three minutes later he said, "Wayne, please don't." Then Wayne strangled him and Dean helped.

It was when we were living on Schuler that Wayne and Dean got me down and

started to kill me. I begged Dean not to kill me and he finally let me go. Also here he got Billy Ridinger. I took care of him while he was there and I believe the only reason he is alive is because I begged them not to kill him.

Wayne and Dean got one boy by themselves on Schuler, a tall skinny guy. I just happened to walk in and there he was. I left before they killed him.

The first at Westcott Towers Apartment (They had two there). I think were two young boys from the Heights. I don't know their name. Wayne accidentally shot one of them about 7 a.m. I was asleep in the other room. Dean told me Wayne had come in waving the .22 and accidentally shot one of the boys in the jaw. The bullet just went in a little. It was just under the skin. They killed these boys later that day.

Dean moved to the Princessa Apts. on Wirt Road and I remember him getting one boy there by himself. He wanted me to help him but I wouldn't do it. I didn't want to mess with this one because I had someplace I wanted to go so I tried to get him mad so he would leave but he wanted to stay. Dean grabbed this boy and within three minutes of when he grabbed him I was gone. At that time I was using Dean's car so I was in and out all the time.

When he moved to Pasadena there was one from Baton Rouge and one small blond boy from South Houston. I saw the boy from South Houston about 45 minutes. I took him a pizza and then I left and he wanted me to come back. I wasn't there when either of these boys were killed. I did come in just after Dean had killed the boy from Baton Rouge that was on a different day from the blond boy.

In all I guess there were between 25 and 30 boys killed and they were buried in three different places.

I was present and helped bury many of them but not all of them. Most are buried at the boat stall, three or four at Sam Rayburn—I am sure two at Sam Rayburn. On the first one at Sam Rayburn I helped bury them and then the next one we took to Sam Rayburn. When he got there Dean and Wayne found that the first one had come to the surface and either a foot or a hand was above the ground. When they buried this one the second time they put some type of rock sheet on top of him to keep him down.

The third place was at the beach at High Island. This was right off the Winnie exit where that road goes to the beach. You turn east on the beach road and go till the pavement changes, which is about a quarter or half mile, and the bodies are on the right side of the highway, about 15 or 20 yards off of the road. I never actually buried any here but I always drove the car. I know that one of the graves had a big rock on top of it. I think there were five or more bodies buried at this location.

The bodies at the beach are in a row down the beach for perhaps a half a mile or so.

I am willing to show the officers where the graves are and will try to locate as many as possible.

I regret all this that happened and am sorry for the kids' families. I am making this statement of my own free will and have not been promised anything.

The statement is signed by David Brooks and witnessed by his father, Alton Brooks, and Homicide Detective Jim D. Tucker.



Brooks, right, Henley take break during search
—Post photo by Jerry Click.



BROOKS

TEENS CHARGED WITH MURDER

Officers recover 23rd body; 4 more believed on Gulf beach

By ION STANDEFER
and JIM BISHOP
Post Reporters

Post
8-11-73

Two Houston teen-agers were charged with murder early Saturday after the number of alleged victims of a mass slaying ring grew to 23.

Authorities were preparing to bring in heavy equipment to uncover a three-mile stretch of Gulf beach to find at least four other bodies they are convinced lie beneath the sand.

Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. led lawmen to two graves just after dawn Friday near Sam Rayburn Reservoir; then he and David Owen Brooks showed officers where two more bodies were located on the beach near High Island.

Henley, 17, was charged Friday with three

counts of murder in San Augustine County and there were indications a fourth charge might be forthcoming in connection with the bodies found there. Two bodies were unearthed at the Rayburn site Thursday.

Brooks, 18, made a written statement to Houston homicide detectives Friday linking him to the slayings.

Henley was charged early Saturday in the death of Charley Cary Cobble, 17, of 394 W. 27th

More pictures, story/page 9B

and that of Marty Ray Jones, 18, whose last known address was 1010 Woodland. Their bodies were found in a Houston boat storage shed.

Brooks was charged in the slaying of William Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st St., whose

boys began luring teen-agers—"most of them hitchhikers"—according to Henley, to Corll's various residences in and around Houston. All the victims were forced to submit to unnatural sex acts and otherwise abused, though "not what you'd really call torture," Henley said.

The total number of victims is uncertain because, police speculate, Corll may have had earlier accomplices and victims of which Henley and Brooks are ignorant.

And Corll is dead, slain early Wednesday by Henley after an all night party at the Pasadena residence.

Henley Friday denied reports that he had said there were 30 victims—"I said 24"—but at the same time he and Brooks told officers they buried five corpses on the High Island beach.

Added to the body Corll allegedly buried by himself, the number believed buried there is six.

Two were found Friday and officers said they would probably have to use a bulldozer to uncover the others. That operation is expected to begin Monday morning.

If the other four bodies are found, the death count will reach 27, making this the largest mass murder case in the nation's history.

Lt. Porter said there was not "the slightest hint" that any other persons were involved in the case here.

But there were indications the police may be probing reports of a similar ring in Dallas. Dallas police have denied knowledge of any such activity in that city.

Brooks reportedly was not in on any of the recent slayings because he got married about a month ago. His wife is expecting a baby.

Dist. Judge George Walker will hold a hearing Monday in Houston on a writ of habeas corpus seeking Henley's release from police custody.

In a short interview at the beach Friday, Henley told reporters he did not implicate Brooks.

"He hung hisself," Henley said.

Henley appeared relatively unperturbed. He invited photographers to "get your pictures." Brooks refused to speak with reporters and futilely tried to shield his face from the cameras.

A virtual army of lawmen, journalists, and onlookers drove to the High Island beach in a caravan of more than 100 vehicles. Three helicopters and one airplane also brought in net-work television crews.

At one point, as the search progressed in steps along the beach, a family on a camping vacation was surrounded by the crowd when digging equipment began working a few feet from their trailer.

The family quickly packed up and left.

body was found Thursday at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Homicide detective W.L. Young said late Friday that both Henley and Brooks had admitted taking part in the slayings.

"Brooks might have killed the least," Young said.

The 22nd and 23rd bodies were found just inside the Chambers County line on a stretch of lonely beach near the east end of Bolivar Peninsula.

The first body found at High Island was one the boys said they had not helped bury.

Brooks said Dean Allen Corll, 33, whose death Wednesday broke open the grotesque case, had pointed out a big rock on the beach about six months ago, according to Young.

Brooks quoted Corll as saying, "This is where I buried one of those boys," Young related.

The body, almost totally decomposed except for some flesh on the feet, was wrapped in a plastic sheathing similar to that covering many of the 17 bodies found in the Southwest Boat Storage, 4500 Silver Bell, Wednesday and Thursday.

About 100 yards up the beach the youths pointed out a second spot. That yielded another victim, this one unwrapped.

"The skull had long black hair.

Corll, who was buried Friday, was the man police say headed the sex-and-murder ring whose total number of victims may never be learned.

Brooks and Henley told police Corll, a bachelor electrician who lived at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena, offered to pay them \$200 for each young boy they brought him.

Detective Young said Henley told him he "sat on the offer for about a year," before he finally got into a financial bind about 18 months ago.

Henley claims he was paid only the first time.

Police sources gave a general outline of how the ring operated:

Henley met Corll several years ago when Corll managed a candy store in the Heights area, where he often gave candy to young boys and offered them rides on his motorcycle. Brooks may have known Corll since Corll moved to Houston about 1960 from Indiana.

Brooks reportedly lived with Corll at times. "David Brooks lived most of his life off Dean," Henley told reporters Friday. "But I worked."

Police say that perhaps three years ago the

From page 1

Chron 8-11-73 Brook's Statement on Mass Murders

This is the statement David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech, gave to police. In it he tells his role in the mass slayings of boys in this area. So far authorities have found 24 bodies.

"The first killing that I remember happened when Dean (Corll) was living at the Yorktown townhouse (3300 Yorktown). There were two boys there and I left before they were killed. But Dean told me that he had killed them afterwards. I don't know where they were buried or what their names were. The first few that Dean killed were supposed to have been sent off somewhere in California.

"The first killing that I remember being present at was on 6363 San Felipe (An Apartment). That boy was Ruben Haney. Dean and I were the only people involved in that one. But Dean did the killing, and I was just present when it happened.

"I also remember two boys who were killed at the Place One apartments on Mangum (3200 Mangum). They were brothers and their father worked next door where they were building some more apartments. I was present when Dean killed them by strangling them but again I did not participate. I believe that I was present when they were buried, but I don't remember where they were buried. The youngest of these two boys is the youngest that was killed I think.

"I remember one boy who was killed on Columbia (street) at Dean's house. (Corll had at least two addresses on Columbia). This was just before Wayne Henley came into the picture. Dean kept this boy around the house for about four days before he killed him. I don't remember his name but we picked him up on 11th and Rutland. I think I helped bury this boy also, but I don't remember where it was. This was about two years ago. It really upset Dean to have to kill this boy because he really liked him.

"A boy by the name of Glass was also killed at the Columbia address. I had taken him home one time, but he wouldn't get out because he wanted to go back to Dean's. I took him back and Dean ended up killing him.

"Now that I think about it I'm not sure whether it was Glass that I took home or another boy. But I believe that it was Glass.

"It was during the time that we were living on Columbia St. that Wayne Henley got involved. Wayne took part in getting the boys at first and then later he took an active part in the killings. Wayne seemed to enjoy causing pain and he was especially sadistic at the Schuler address.

"Most of the killings that occurred after Wayne came into the picture involved all three of us. I still did not take part in the actual killing but nearly always all three of us were there.

"I was present when Mark Scott was killed at the Schuler street address. (Corll lived for a time on the corner of Schuler and Washington.) I had told yesterday in my witness statement about Mark Scott being at the Schuler house but I did not say that I was present, which I was. Mark had a knife and he tried to get Dean. He swung at him with a knife and caught Dean's shirt and barely broke the skin. He still had one hand tied and Dean grabbed the hand with the knife. Wayne ran out of the room and got a pistol, and Mark just

gave up. Wayne (Henley) killed Mark Scott and I think that he strangled him. Mark was either buried at the beach or the boat house.

"There was another boy killed at the Schuler house, actually there were two at this time. A boy named Billy Balsch and a Johnny and I think that his last name was Malone. Wayne strangled Billy and he said 'Hey Johnny' and when

Johnny looked up Wayne shot him in the forehead with a .25 automatic. The bullet came out of his ear and he raised up and about three minutes later he said 'Wayne, please don't.' Then Wayne strangled him, and Dean helped.

"It was while we were living on Schuler that Wayne and Dean got me down and started to kill me. I begged Dean not to kill me and he finally let me go. I told about this in my witness statement and that part of my statement was absolutely true. It was also at this address that they got Billy Ridinger and what I said in my witness statement was true about him. I took care of him while he was there and I believe the only reason he is alive now is because I begged them not to kill him.

"Wayne and Dean got one boy by themselves while we were on Schuler. It was a tall, skinny guy. I just happened to walk in the house and there he was. I left before they killed this one.

"In the first apartment we lived in at Westcott Towers (904 Westcott) I think that there were two boys killed. These were both young boys from the Heights area but I don't know their names. Wayne accidentally shot one of them. This was about 7 a.m. I was in the other room asleep when this happened. Dean told me that Wayne had just come in waving the .22 and accidentally shot one of the boys in the jaw. The bullet just went in a little and then it was just under the skin. They didn't kill the boy right then. They killed these two boys later on that day.

"Dean moved to the Princessa Apartments on (1855) Wirt and I remember him getting one boy there by himself. He wanted me to help him but I wouldn't do it. I didn't want to mess with this one because I had someplace I wanted to go so I tried to get him mad so he would leave but he wanted to stay.

"Dean grabbed the boy and within three minutes of when he grabbed him I was gone. At that time I was using Dean's car so I was in and out all the time. After the Princessa Apartments Dean moved to Pasadena. I know of two that were killed there. One was from Baton Rouge and one was a small blond boy from South Houston. I saw the boy from South Houston for about 45 minutes. I took him a pizza and then I left and he wanted me to come back. I wasn't there when either of these two boys were killed. I did come in just after Dean had killed the boy from Baton Rouge, that one was a different day from the blond boy.

"In all, I guess there were between 25 and 30 boys killed and they were buried in three different places.

"I was present and helped bury many of them but not all of them. Most of them were buried at the boat stall. (Seventeen bodies recovered there.) There were three or four buried at Sam Rayburn, I think, I am sure that there are two up there. (Four bodies have been found.) On the first one at Sam Rayburn I helped bury them. Then the next one we took to Sam Rayburn when we got there Dean and Wayne found that the first one had come to the surface and either a foot or a hand was above the ground. When they buried this one the second time they put some type of sheet on top of him to keep him down.

"The third place that they were buried was on the beach at High Island. (Three bodies found.) This was right off the Winnie exit where the road goes to the beach. You turn east on the beach road and go till the pavement changes which is about a quarter or a half of a mile and the bodies are on the right hand side of the highway about 15 or 20 yards off of the road. I never actually buried one here but I always drove the car. I know that one of the graves had a large rock on top of it. I think that there were five or more bodies buried at this location.

"The bodies at the beach are in a row down the beach for perhaps half a mile or so. I am willing to show officers where this location is and I will try to locate as many of the graves as possible.

"I regret that this happened and I'm sorry for the kids' families.

Signed by David O. Brooks
Witnessed by Alton Brooks (his father)

Brooks' dad astonished

By ANN JAMES
Post Reporter

The father of David Brooks waited forlornly in a third floor hall of the Houston police station Friday night, hoping for a chance to talk to his son again.

Alton Brooks, a man with neat, wavy iron gray hair, said he did not want to talk about his son's plight yet. He shook his head repeatedly when asked if he had any idea what went wrong—how David could have gotten into such trouble.

There was nothing he could pinpoint. If David was on drugs, his father did not know it. The shocking revelations of the past two days came like a thunderbolt to this man, a paving contractor who also employed Wayne Henley at one time.

Yes, he did tell David to tell police what he knew, he agreed. And the son would not sign the statement he gave police Friday until his dad came back to the station.

The hurt in the father's eyes was almost something you could touch, and the crushing realization that his boy had told him things he could not comprehend seemed to press him down almost physically.

Chron 8-11-73

2 Houston Teens Charged In 3 of 23 Youth Slayings

Two Houston teen-agers were charged today with three of 23 slayings linked to sex orgies in a bachelor electrician's home.

They were Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, of 325 W. 27th, and David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech.

The formal charges were filed early today by Asst.

Dist. Atty. Michael Hinton. Henley is accused of strangling to death 18-year-old Marty Jones, of 1015 Arlington, and fatally shooting Charles Cary Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th St.

Both youths, believed killed on July 27, lived in the same Heights neighborhood as Henley.

Brooks is charged with being a principal in the July 10 murder by strangling of William Ray Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st St., in the same area.

Parents of Jones and Cobble said their sons had left home and were sharing a rented room when they last called home on July 26.

Billy Lawrence's father said his son had been missing since the first week in June.

GET 4 ADDS
1ST ADD

Led by Henley and Brooks, police have unearthed 23 bodies in three locations, all believed to be teen-age boys.

The two blame most of the deaths on Dean Allen Corll,

33, a bachelor electrician who once sold candy from a truck.

Corll, described by Henley as a homosexual sadist and by neighbors as a "quiet, polite man who loved kids," was shot to death Wednesday morning in his home at 2020 Lamar, Pasadena.

Henley said he killed Corll (See TEENS, Page 2)

Teens Are Charged In 3 of 23 Mass Killings

FROM PAGE 1

in self-defense after a night of sex and paint-sniffing with Corll and two other youths at Corll's home.

He later told police Corll had bragged of killing 19 young boys and burying them in a rented boat shed in Southwest Houston.

Henley led police to the shed, 4500 Silver Bell, where 17 bodies, including those of Jones and Cobble, were found Wednesday and Thursday wrapped in plastic bags.

Four more bodies were discovered in East Texas piney woods near Broaddus, on Thursday and Friday. One of them was tentatively identified by Dr. Jack Pruitt of Lufkin as William Lawrence.

San Augustine County officials Friday charged Henley with murder of Lawrence. s identified by himself and Lawrence's father "from dental records, hair and height."

The two most recently discovered graves were found Friday afternoon on a lonely strip of beach near in Chambers County near High Island. The bodies, reduced to

bones, were buried more than two years. They were not identified.

Chambers County authorities have called of further digging for the weekend because of high tides and crowds of spectators.

But they said they expect to find perhaps four more bodies in Jefferson County, about a mile from the High Island site.

The beach graves were about 3 feet deep 20 feet from the water and 75 yards apart. A bulldozer and trench digger were used to uncover them.

Both graves were doused with lime, and one body was wrapped in plastic.

Police surmise the victims were either strangled or shot in the body since no bullet holes were found in the heads.

The graves lay on sandy knolls now covered with dense underbrush. Police say they originally were dug far from the water's reach, but the coastline has since changed and the waves have reached them.

Henley and Brooks directed police where to dig. Then Henley asked reporters to warn youngsters against hitchhiking.

"That's how we picked up most of them" he said.

Henley earlier had told police that Corll once paid him \$200, to bring young boys to Corll's home by promising "a groovy party."

Later, he said, "Dean would kill them and we would help bury them."

Houston homicide Det. W. L. Young said Henley had told police he had killed nine of the victims himself.

Friday Brooks gave police a statement of his part in the deaths. In it, he admitted being present while boys were murdered, and driving Corll's van to the burial grounds. But he insisted he did not kill anyone.

Houston attorney Charles Owen Melder said he has been retained by Mrs. Mary Henley to seek release of her son, Wayne, now in custody of Pasadena police.

A hearing at which Melder says he will plead for Henley's release has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday before State Dist. Court Judge George Walker.

However, Melder made his announcement Friday before charges against Henley were filed.

Henley is now in the Pasadena jail, held without bond on the district attorney's recommendation.

Brooks is in the Houston city jail, also without bond.

It could not be immediately determined whether Brooks' family had retained legal counsel.

Chronicle

Saturday, August 11, 1973



Photos by Darrell Davidson, Chronicle Staff

DEAN CORLL'S FATHER WITH FLAG FROM CASKET
At Funeral, Minister Said: "We Deliver This Man Unto God's Judgment"

Teen Leads Officers To More Gravesites

Authorities today uncovered two more bodies in lime-covered graves in East Texas, bringing to 21 the known number of victims linked to sex orgies in a bachelor electrician's home.

Homicide detectives also prepared to search for more bodies believed buried on beaches in High Island on the eastern tip of Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County.

Two youths have been linked to the killings along with the electrician, Dean Corll, 33, who lived in Pasadena.

The youths are Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, who has admitted killing nine of the boys. The other is David Owens Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd.

Henley has led police to a mass grave site at a boat shed in southwest Houston where 17 bodies were found. He took police to another burial ground near Lake Sam Rayburn in San Augustine County. Four bodies were found there.

Brooks said today he can lead officers to bodies of at least five boys buried near High Island.

Brooks and Henley said they helped Corll bury the youths. Henley said he shot Corll to death Wednesday during a sex party at Corll's home at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena.

Henley was charged today in San Augustine County with three counts of murder. Justice of the Peace C. A. Renfro set his bond as \$100,000.

Henley described Corll as a homosexual and said Corll paid him money to procure young boys for him.

"He offered to pay me \$200 as a beginning price. He paid me some of that," Henley said.

The youth said his 18-month relationship with Corll made me feel pretty grotesque.

"He (Corll) had a lust for blood. I was tired of him doing things like that," Henley said. He said Corll had threatened to kill him at the party where he shot Corll.

The graves uncovered today were near FM 3185 in the Sam Houston National Forest. Rayburn Lake is nearby.

Henley said he and Brooks helped Corll kill and bury 25 to 30 boys in three years, police said.

Houston Homicide Detective W. L. Young says Henley admits killing nine victims himself "by choking and shooting them" and was present at other killings.

At the East Texas gravesite, Henley talked briefly with reporters.

"Billy's buried there," he said indicating a mound.

Newsman asked him to identify Billy and he mumbled the name William Lawrence.

Then officers made Henley stop talking.

Juvenile authorities say Horace Lawrence, 310 W. 31st

St., reported his son, William, 15, missing since the first week in June.

The father said the son called from Austin a week later and said he "had to get away for a while."

Corll's father, Arnold Corll, an electrician, owns a lake house near where the two bodies were found. It is not far from the town of Broadus.

Officers said they expected to find a third grave.

When Henley got out of the police car to point out the gravesite in East Texas, he said:

"Here's some boys that I helped get for Dean (Corll). He raped them and killed them and brought them out here to bury them."

Henley said he got involved with Corll about 18 months ago.

"I got into it a year ago last winter," he said. "David Brooks helped do the same thing I did."

Brooks, who once roomed with Corll, said he introduced Henley, a junior high school dropout, to Corll.

Brooks, jailed for further questioning, said he and Henley became involved in killing boys, but did not elaborate to what extent, police said.

As the search for more bodies spread, Corll was buried in Grandview Cemetery on Spencer Rd. today.

Corll, known to Henley's family as "a nice, quiet man" who was fond of children, was shot five times at his Pasadena home during a paint-sniffing party in which Henley said, a 15-year-old girl and a 20-year-old youth were bound to a torture board found in the home.

Henley said he killed Corll after talking him out of killing the couple and possibly himself. He said he used Corll's gun.

Corll, an electrician for Houston Lighting and Power Co. and a bachelor, was quiet about his life but a Pasadena neighbor, Billy Richardson, 2024 Lamar Dr., said Corll was reared by his mother and grandmother.

He was born in Indiana and once was an Army private at Ft. Hood, where he was honorably discharged.

He moved into the frame cottage at 2020 Lamar, given him by his father, in June, Richardson said.

Previously Corll lived in the 900 block of Columbia in the old Houston Heights; at the Yorktown Apartments, 3300 Yorktown, and then Place Apartments, 3200 Mangum.



MARK S. SCOTT



HOMER GARCIA



RICHARD HEMBREE



RUBEN WATSON

Names of 7 Boys Feared To Be Murder Victims

Police say they have reason to believe the following six boys are among the victims in the mass murder case growing out of the shooting death of Dean Corll.

- Jerry L. Waldrop, no age available, son of Everett Waldrop, of 455 N. Highland Ave., NE No. 4, Atlanta, Ga., missing since 1971.

- Donald W. Waldrop, no age available, brother of Jerry Waldrop and of the same address, also missing since 1971.

- Mark S. Scott, 18, son of W. T. and Mary Scott, 927 W. 25th Ave., missing since Dec.

22, 1972, described as a friend of Corll and Elmer Wayne Henley.

- Ruben W. Watson, no age available, son of Mrs. Eugene Haney, 2317 Beall, missing since Aug. 17, 1971.

- Homer Garcia, 15, 5474 Darnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luis Garcia, missing since July 17, 1973.

- Richard Hembree, 13, 1426 W. 21st, missing since Oct. 2, 1972.

- James Eugene Glass, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Glass, 1706 Wycliffe, missing since December, 1972.

Some of the Bodies In Mass Killings May Never Be Identified

Some of the skeletal remains found in lime-covered graves here, in East Texas, and at a beach near High Island may never be identified.

A Houston pathologist says that identification from the skeleton alone sometimes is "very difficult."

If the skull is intact and the victim had identifiable dental work, positive identification is simple, the pathologist says.

Lacking this, however, "it sometimes is a real problem," he says.

Doctors can determine from the bones the sex and age of the victim. Sometimes old healed fractures of bones provide additional clues but not positive proof, he says.

With the intact body, fingerprints or footprints are useful, but a body in the ground over a year will have no useful fingerprints or fingerprints, he says.

In the Gulf Coast area, where the ground is moist, bodies deteriorate rapidly, he says.

"There is a real possibility that some of the bodies never will be identified," he says.

Chron 8-11-73

Chron 8-11-73

Police hunt for graves as 19 bodies unearthed

By GEORGE FLYNN
and ANN JAMES

Post Reporters

With 19 bodies unearthed at locations in Houston and at Sam Rayburn Reservoir, lawmen late Thursday were faced with what threatened to become the biggest mass murder case in the nation's history.

Homicide Lt. Breck Porter said the death count could reach 30.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, who Wednesday led police to the Southwest Boat Storage at 4500 Silver Bell where 17 bodies were unearthed, Thursday night pointed out a site on the northeast side of the big lake in San Augustine County where two lonely graves were found.

Two more victims are believed buried there.

It was feared still more bodies would be found when digging begins at several sites in the High Island area where Henley has told police other victims were "scattered all over."

Digging at the boat shed ended about 10 p.m. Thursday and the ground was leveled with a backhoe.

Henley, of 325 W. 27th St., led police to the boat storage shed Wednesday after admitting the shooting death of a Pasadena man he claimed killed the victims and buried them.

Dean Allen Corll, 33, was shot to death in his Pasadena home at 2020 Lamar Wednesday morning following an all night party there with Henley and two other teens.

Henley, of 325 W. 27th St., told police he went to Corll's home Tuesday night with a 20-year-old youth and a 15-year-old girl for a party.

He said they sat around Corll's living room sniffing intoxicating vapors from an acrylic substance in a bag until they passed out, police said.

When he awoke about dawn, Henley said Corll had already bound his two friends to a plywood board allegedly used for torture and unnatural sex acts and was trying to handcuff him.

Corll freed Henley when the boy offered to help him torture and kill the victims, but the teenager managed to get Corll's

From page 1

.22 caliber pistol and shot Corll when the man came at him with a knife, the boy told police.

Alleged statements made by Corll to the two others at the party led police to question Henley about other victims, and he led officers to the boat stall Wednesday afternoon.

Porter said Henley was implicated in the slayings Thursday after the arrest of David Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech.

Brooks, Porter said, had introduced Henley to Corll about two years ago and the two had provided numerous boys for parties at Corll's home.

Porter said when Brooks was arrested, he implicated Henley in helping Corll dispose of bodies after the slayings, and Henley in turn implicated Brooks when the two were brought face to face.

Both were being held late Thursday, but no charges had been filed.

Henley told Porter he thought the total number of victims, all teen-age boys, was between 25 and 30.

When digging at the boat stall ended about midnight Wednesday, eight bodies had been found.

Those victims unearthed Thursday were generally more badly decomposed, police said.

The bodies were three deep in some places, with a layer of lime covering each corpse, and a layer of dirt over that.

Each time the backhoe operator struck lime, someone went for a plastic body bag.

Two of the corpses, numbers 13 and 14, were found buried together. Detective Larry Earis said identification indicated the two were brothers.

He would not release the names until the next of kin are notified, but he said they may have lived in Mississippi and Alabama. He added that there is some indication they may have lived in this area more recently.

The 16th body found, located near the entrance to the boat shed, was less decomposed than some of the others.

It was the body of a male, apparently young, and had on a brightly colored, striped swim suit, undershorts and black cowboy boots on the feet.

There had been speculation there were 19 bodies, but Detective D. R. James said:

"If there's 19 in here, we missed two. But we've been over every inch of this ground, some of it twice."

James, a homicide detective only two months, described the scene as "wall-to-wall bodies."

The two graves in East Texas were unearthed about 200 yards apart in the dense Angelina National Forest, which rings the lake.

Henley told officers the site was about two miles from a cabin owned by Corll's parents.

San Augustine County Sheriff John Hoyt called off the search after dark. He said Henley would spend the night in the San Augustine jail, "get some good food and some good sleep," and help investigators find the other two graves Friday.

"We'll be back out here at sunrise," Hoyt said.

The two bodies, wrapped in plastic and covered with lime, were taken to San Augustine.

Pasadena policemen assisting in the search said the plastic sheets were similar to rolls found in Corll's house. They said Henley told them Corll would lay the victims on the plastic sheets, either shoot or choke them, then roll up the plastic.

Hoyt said Henley told him the killings had been happening and after driving around for a while pointed out a narrow clay road near Jackson Hill Park.

When newsmen asked Henley who was in the graves, he replied, "Just some boys I helped him (Corll) get."

"He raped them, killed them and buried them...I helped him," Henley said.

Hoyt said Henley told him the killings had been happening since a year ago last winter.

Harris County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk said Thursday he would not release a cause of death on any of the victims until all remains had been examined.

Mrs. Mary Henley, 34, the boy's mother, stayed close to the police station Thursday as her son gave his revelations to police.

She described her son as a boy who had dropped out of school to help support her and the boy's grandmother, Mrs. M. Christine Weed.

She remembered Corll as a man so nice and easy going that even her pet collie dog liked him.

Mrs. Henley said Corll "just counted himself as one of the kids" and once became very angry when she made a reference to his age.

Her son and the Brooks boy had attended Helms Elementary School and Hamilton Jr. High School together, she said, and she remembered Henley's first meeting with Corll some two years ago.

She became frightened, she said, when first told of Henley's sniffing intoxicants because she said the boy has an asthmatic condition.

Her son, she said, always gave her telephone numbers of places he was staying and she said she always knew where he was.

In the homicide division down the hall from where Mrs. Henley was talking, Porter leafed through missing persons reports.

He listed those he suspected of being victims so far as David Hilligiest, 13, of 402 W. 27th St.; James Stanton Dreymala, 13, of 5411 Laurel Creek, whose bicycle was found in the boat stall; Charles Ray Cobble, 17, and Ray Jones, 18, who shared an apartment of 304 W. 27th St.; Marty Ray Jones, 17, whose last known address was 1010 Woodland; Frank Aguirre, 18, of 932 W. Cottage, Gregory Malley Winkle, 15, of 407 W. 26th, and James Eugene Glass, 14 of 1706 Wycliff.

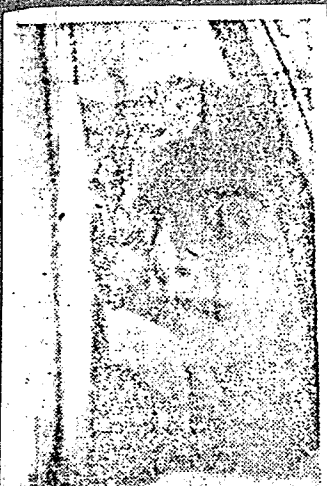
"It used to be when a kid ran away all the officers got out and looked for him," Porter said, "but now you've got 5,000 missing every year. Teens run off if you frustrate them at all and you've got these communes all over and some stay from home three or four days at a time," he added.

Leafing through the reports once more, Porter maintained the frown he's worn for two days.

"No one thinks anything of it anymore," he said.

The most murders by one person involved the bodies of 25 farm hands found buried in a California farm in 1971. Juan Corona was convicted of the killings in 1973 and sentenced to life in prison.

THE HOUSTON POST
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1973



ELMER WAYNE HENLEY



FRANK AGUIRRE



JAMES EUGENE GLASS



Unexplained gas mask on bed in Corll home

—Post photo by Danny Connolly



Digging for victims continued at boat shed

Finding Missing Children Mostly Matter of Luck

BY TOMMY MILLER
Chronicle Staff

Houston police don't actively search for missing children. They say there are too many.

Detective Patricia L. Fawkes of the juvenile missing persons bureau said "we don't have the manpower" to conduct intensive searches for children reported missing by their parents.

Last year, 5228 missing juveniles—officially classified as runaways—were reported here. There were 5652 runaway reports in 1971.

When a parent reports a child missing, Fawkes said, the bureau dispatches the name, description and other pertinent information on a pickup bulletin to all Houston policemen.

Fawkes said officers actively look for a runaway only when they have specific information on his whereabouts.

"If officers stop a car with a juvenile in it, they might ask for identification," she said. "If the name is on the missing list, they will bring him in."

When their children disappear, parents usually turn first to the police missing persons bureau. But they learn that finding their children is mostly a matter of luck.

Mrs. Mildred Simineaux, of 3405 N. Shepherd, reported to the bureau last October that her son, Jay 15, was missing.

"They told me that if they saw him on the streets they would stop him and ask why he wasn't in school," she said.

Mrs. Simineaux came to the bureau Thursday night to ask about her son after police began uncovering bodies of youths believed to be missing.

She had recognized pictures in The Chronicle of two teen-agers who were friends of her son.

The two teen-agers, Gregory Winkle and David Hilligiest, were reported missing by their parents more than two years ago.

Police believe that the two youths may be among the 17 victims whose bodies have been unearched in a boat shed in southwest Houston.

Two of the bodies have been positively identified as teen-agers who were reported missing by their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Aguirre, 932 W. Cottage, said their son, Frank, 19, disappeared in March, 1972.

Mrs. Aguirre said Frank had been dating Rhonda Williams, 15, one of the three youngsters at the house where suspected mass slayer Dean Allen Corll, 33, was slain.

"The police didn't go out looking for him," said James Douglas Dreymla, 5411 Laurel Creek. "They told us they will just pick him up if they see him."

Dreymla was speaking about his son, James, 14, who disappeared last Friday. His fears were heightened Wednesday when his son's bicycle was found in the boat shed.

Some worried parents believe that police don't do enough to help find their children.

Fred Hilligiest, 402 W. 27th, said police "ought to get in there and go full blast to find" a runaway.

Hired Detective Hilligiest said he hired a private detective to search for his son, David, 13, after he couldn't get results from the police.

He said he expected a more intensive search for his son by police because they have trained personnel to "find out a hell of a lot about where he might be."

Walter Scott, 927 W. 25th, said police "told us they couldn't help us much" when his son, Mark, 19, disappeared more than a year ago.

"At the time, we were high-

ly upset," he said, "but maybe they couldn't do anything more."

Willard K. Branch, however, said the missing persons bureau does "everything they can to locate a child."

"If you just give them any little lead, they will check it out," said Branch, supervisor of the police department's radio shop.

Branch's son, Willard Jr., 19, disappeared more than two years ago. Branch said he used "every police trick I know on my own and came up with a complete zero. It was like he dropped off the face of the earth."

Finding a missing youth is particularly difficult, Branch said, because there are no police pictures or fingerprints of juveniles in police records.

"All you have is a name," he said, "and they sometimes use a different name."

Officer P. A. Lawson of juvenile missing persons said "running away from home is not a criminal offense" and that attempts by police to find missing youths is "just a public service to parents."

Anxiety Grows
But Lawson said it "seems like the runaways are increasing, and we're getting a lot of repeaters."

"Something needs to be done," she said. "I don't know, maybe the kids need more supervision."

Meanwhile, parents of missing Houston teen-agers are more anxious today than is usually the case. They know that their child may be among the bodies uncovered.

2 Boys Were Shot In the Head, Two Others Strangled

Chron. 8-10-73

Two of the boys whose bodies were found buried in a southwest Houston boat shed had been shot in the head and two others had been strangled, County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk says.



MARTY RAY JONES

He identified two of the boys as Marty Ray Jones, 18, of 1015 Arlington, and Charles Cary Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th, both in the Heights area.

Jones had been shot twice in the head with a .22-caliber gun and had a plastic sack tied over his head, Jachimczyk said. Cobble had been strangled, Jachimczyk said. He identified both youths through dental records.

He said he completed autopsies on four bodies Thursday, but two remain unidentified.

One of these had been shot twice in the head at close range with a .22-caliber weapon and also had a plastic sack tied over his head, Jachimczyk said. The other had been strangled.

Jones and Cobble had both left home and were sharing a rented room, their parents said. Both teen-agers called their parents July 26, the parents said.

Jachimczyk said both boys, whose bodies were found together Wednesday, had been dead about two weeks.

One of the unidentified bodies had been buried about a week and the other three months or longer, Jachimczyk said.

He said he couldn't determine if any of the victims had been sexually molested. None had been sexually mutilated or dismembered.

Jachimczyk said it will take

"a while" to complete the examinations of the other bodies. "We have X-rays on the rest (of the bodies) and some are disjuncted. We have many bones and we don't know which go with which bodies," he said.

L. C. Kelly, an investigator with the medical examiner's office, said the four .22-caliber slugs recovered from the bodies of Jones and an unidentified youth would be turned over to Houston police for ballistics tests.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, who led police to the victims' graves said he shot Dean Allen Corll, 33, Wednesday with Corll's .22-caliber revolver.

Henley said he and Corll were involved in the slayings of "about 25 to 30" boys.

21 Teen Bodies Now Uncovered

8-10-73

Murder Suspect Tells 'Everything'

* * * * *

'Now I Can Live'

BY CRAIG SMYSER
Chronicle Staff

Elmer Wayne Henley has told police "everything, just everything," his mother says, and he told her, "Momma, be happy for me because now at last I can live."

Henley, 17, told police Thursday he killed nine boys himself and was present at other slayings in Houston's mass murder case.

Mrs. Mary Henley said Thursday night she talked with her son over the phone before he left to show police more graves near Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

"Momma," he said, "I've told them everything."

"What do you mean, everything?" she asked.

"Just everything."

"Oh, Wayne," she said.

"Momma, be happy for me because now, at last, I can live."

Mrs. Henley said she thought he felt good after letting such a weight loose.

"I don't understand how he lived with it," she said. "He never told me a thing about it and he was always so considerate."

She said she also saw her son briefly at the Pasadena jail. She said he was shivering and said, "Momma, I'm sick."

She said his closed cell caused him to feel badly.

"He'd rather they tie him up to a tree than put him in a

(See HENLEY, Page 4)

Neighbors say Corll was 'nice, quiet'

By RICHARD VARA
Post Reporter

A large goldfish lashed nervously through the water in a square unlit tank that occupied one corner of Dean Corll's home.

The fish moved his head from side to side as if to take in a good view of what all the men were doing in the modestly furnished living room where they stood in small knots. Television lights and cameras abounded and reporters tirelessly asked questions or roamed through the green and white frame home at 2020 Lamar Drive.

In the back yard a small crew of Pasadena city workers dug at the locations police indicated but, much to the workers' relief, found nothing.

Although neighbors were anxious to add anything they could, most said that they knew Corll in only slight fashions exchanging salutations or watching him mow his yard or work in his van.

But his neighbors generally agreed on the type of neighbor he was—"a real nice quiet guy."

"He kept to himself," says his next door neighbor, Eugene G. Swander. "He more or less minded his own business."

But there were a few neighbors who had more contact with Corll.

"He was real quiet," said Bobby Strawther,

20, of 2016 Lamar. "He never did give anybody around here any trouble."

Strawther said he sometimes helped Corll repair his van or that Corll would sometimes come to Strawther's home and discuss electronics (Corll a bachelor, was a relay tester for Houston Lighting & Power Co.) or the stereo in Strawther's car.

Strawther, nervous before cameras and reporters, seemed firm in his belief that Corll didn't commit the killings.

Up the street from the Corll's home, Larry Thompson, 18, described him as a "real good neighbor and a real good guy."

He said that Corll kept his hair and kept his lawn mowed all the time.

He even found Corll to be "pretty witty and funny."

Did Thompson believe that Corll committed the killings?

"Personally, no," he said. "I don't, I really don't."

There were a few items neighbors seemed in agreement. Corll's mother had died when he was young and his father had remarried. He had a younger brother named Mike, and they added that his family was "very nice."

Except for bloodstains on a small portion of the hallway carpet and on the wall there was nothing to indicate that Dean Corll, age 33, had died there with at least four gunshots in his body.

In fact, the two-bedroom home didn't give the slightest clue to its surveyors that there had been a sexual affair involving Corll and

three Houston youths which ended when one of the youths allegedly killed Corll.

Pasadena officers have removed sets of handcuffs, the .22 caliber pistol that killed Corll, a bayonet-like knife and some tape which had been placed over the mouths of the youths.

The officers had already removed a "restraining board"—a slab of plywood two and a half feet wide and eight feet long with holes at each corner through which one ring of a handcuff was fastened leaving the other ring free to bind a hand or foot.

Three holes were drilled in the center but police are still puzzled over their function.

Every item in the home, including books, posters, clothing and other goods were scrutinized once by police and once again by trailing reporters in hopes of soliciting another kernel of information to the conundrum named Dean Corll.

Eventually the police and newsmen disappeared and the neighbors went back to their houses and only a few kids drove bicycles past the much surveyed home and gave it a few inquiring glances.

Inside the gold fish slithered nervously in his dark tank possibly wondering where everyone had gone.

Henley Tells Mom: 'At Last I Can Live'

FROM PAGE 1

closed room without windows," she said. "And he must've frozen without a blanket."

She said he asked what his brothers thought of him now. "I told him Ronnie loved him and Vernon did, too, and they want him home," she said.

As she left, she said, she asked the jailer to give Wayne a blanket.

She said her son and David Brooks, 18, who introduced Henley to suspected mass slayer Dean Corll and who admits knowing of some killings, were not always good friends.

They would quarrel, she said, and not see each other for a long time.

She said they met at Hamilton Junior High School, where Henley dropped out in the ninth grade three years ago.

Brooks didn't talk much, Mrs. Henley said, and often criticized her control over her children.

"I like to know where my kids are," she said she told him. "David told me my kids could take care of themselves and to leave them alone."

Recently, she said, her son had been acting nervously.

"I couldn't get him to tell me what was bothering him, and now it's too late to help him," she said.

He was worried about his three brothers, she said, and if one went out at night and she didn't know where he was, he would be upset until he heard from him.

Mrs. Henley paused.

Her voice, which had been tired and broken with grief, began again almost hysterically.

"They tell me I'm talking too much, she said. "My lawyer told me I talked too much. But here is another..."

Finding Missing Children Mostly Matter of Luck

BY TOMMY MILLER
Chronicle Staff

Houston police don't actively search for missing children. They say there are too many.

Detective Patricia L. Fawkes of the juvenile missing persons bureau said "we don't have the manpower" to conduct intensive searches for children reported missing by their parents.

Last year, 5228 missing juveniles—officially classified as runaways—were reported here. There were 5652 runaway reports in 1971.

When a parent reports a child missing, Fawkes said, the bureau dispatches the name, description and other pertinent information on a pickup bulletin to all Houston policemen.

Fawkes said officers actively look for a runaway only when they have specific information on his whereabouts.

"If officers stop a car with a juvenile in it, they might ask for identification," she said. "If the name is on the missing list, they will bring him in."

When their children disappear, parents usually turn first to the police missing persons bureau. But they learn that finding their children is mostly a matter of luck.

Mrs. Mildred Simineaux, of 3405 N. Shepherd, reported to the bureau last October that her son, Jay 15, was missing.

"They told me that if they saw him on the streets they would stop him and ask why he wasn't in school," she said.

Mrs. Simineaux came to the bureau Thursday night to ask about her son after police began uncovering bodies of youths believed to be missing.

She had recognized pictures in The Chronicle of two teen-agers who were friends of her son.

The two teen-agers, Gregory Winkle and David Hilligiest, were reported missing by their parents more than two years ago.

Police believe that the two youths may be among the 17 victims whose bodies have been unearthed in a boat shed in southwest Houston.

Two of the bodies have been positively identified as teen-agers who were reported missing by their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Aguirre, 932 W. Cottage, said their son, Frank, 19, disappeared in March, 1972.

Mrs. Aguirre said Frank had been dating Rhonda Williams, 15, one of the three youngsters at the house where suspected mass slayer Dean Allen Corll, 33, was slain.

"The police didn't go out looking for him," said James Douglas Dreymala, 5411 Laurel Creek. "They told us they will just pick him up if they see him."

Dreymala was speaking about his son, James, 14, who disappeared last Friday. His fears were heightened Wednesday when his son's bicycle was found in the boat shed.

Some worried parents believe that police don't do enough to help find their children.

Fred Hilligiest, 402 W. 27th, said police "ought to get in there and go full blast to find" a runaway.

Hilligiest said he hired a private detective to search for his son, David, 13, after he couldn't get results from the police.

He said he expected a more intensive search for his son by police because they have trained personnel to "find out a hell of a lot about where he might be."

Walter Scott, 927 W. 25th, said police "told us they couldn't help us much" when his son, Mark, 19, disappeared more than a year ago.

"At the time, we were high-

ly upset," he said, "but maybe they couldn't do anything more."

Willard K. Branch, however, said the missing persons bureau does "everything they can to locate a child."

"If you just give them any little lead, they will check it out," said Branch, supervisor of the police department's radio shop.

Branch's son, Willard Jr., 19, disappeared more than two years ago. Branch said he used "every police trick I know on my own and came up with a complete zero. It was like he dropped off the face of the earth."

Finding a missing youth is particularly difficult, Branch said, because there are no police pictures or fingerprints of juveniles in police records.

"All you have is a name," he said, "and they sometimes use a different name."

Officer P. A. Lawson of juvenile missing persons said "running away from home is not a criminal offense" and that attempts by police to find missing youths is "just a public service to parents."

Anxiety Grows
But Lawson said it "seems like the runaways are increasing, and we're getting a lot of repeaters."

"Something needs to be done," she said. "I don't know, maybe the kids need more supervision."

Meanwhile, parents of missing Houston teen-agers are more anxious today than is usually the case. They know that their child may be among the bodies uncovered.

2 Boys Were Shot In the Head, Two Others Strangled

Chron. 8-10-73
Two of the boys whose

bodies were found buried in a southwest Houston boat shed had been shot in the head and two others had been strangled, County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk says.



MARTY RAY JONES

He identified two of the boys as Marty Ray Jones, 18, of 1015 Arlington, and Charles Cary Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th, both in the Heights area.

Jones had been shot twice in the head with a .22-caliber gun and had a plastic sack tied over his head, Jachimczyk said. Cobble had been strangled, Jachimczyk said. He identified both youths through dental records.

He said he completed autopsies on four bodies Thursday, but two remain unidentified.

One of these had been shot twice in the head at close range with a .22-caliber weapon and also had a plastic sack tied over his head, Jachimczyk said. The other had been strangled.

Jones and Cobble had both left home and were sharing a rented room, their parents said. Both teen-agers called their parents July 26, the parents said.

Jachimczyk said both boys, whose bodies were found together Wednesday, had been dead about two weeks.

One of the unidentified bodies had been buried about a week and the other three months or longer, Jachimczyk said.

He said he couldn't determine if any of the victims had been sexually molested. None had been sexually mutilated or dismembered.

Jachimczyk said it will take

"a while" to complete the examinations of the other bodies. "We have X-rays on the rest (of the bodies) and some are disjointed. We have many bones and we don't know which go with which bodies," he said.

L. C. Kelly, an investigator with the medical examiner's office, said the four .22-caliber slugs recovered from the bodies of Jones and an unidentified youth would be turned over to Houston police for ballistics tests.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, who led police to the victims' graves said he shot Dean Allen Corll, 33, Wednesday with Corll's .22-caliber revolver.

Henley said he and Corll were involved in the slayings of "about 25 to 30" boys.

It's those few 'who turn up in shallow graves'

Post 8-10

By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

"About 99.9 per cent of them turn out to be alive and well and happy wherever they want to be," the head of Houston's missing persons detail said Thursday.

"But those other few—they're the ones who turn up in shallow graves or the bayou or some place like that."

Juvenile division Capt. R. L. Horton stared out at the afternoon rain and talked about the problems involved in cases where persons have simply "disappeared."

At least six teenaged boys reported missing are believed to have been buried beneath the dirt floor of a boat storage shed. Those listed as missing persons will probably be found as victims as police search for more bodies.

'It is extremely difficult for young people to adjust to today's society.'

As the body count rises, the question also is raised of how so many young people—many of them school chums—could have vanished without police investigation.

Horton points out that the 1 per cent he speaks about are hidden among 5,228 reports of missing juveniles in Houston in 1972.

Although each of the boat shed victims disappeared under mysterious circumstances, there were no definite signs of foul play.

"It doesn't take a lot of hindsight at this point to figure out that violence was involved," Horton said.

Two boys never returned from a city swimming pool, one did not return home from his job at a fish restaurant. Two more were last seen get-

'It doesn't take a lot of hindsight at this point to figure out violence was involved.'

ting into a light-colored van and the last one simply left home after an argument with parents.

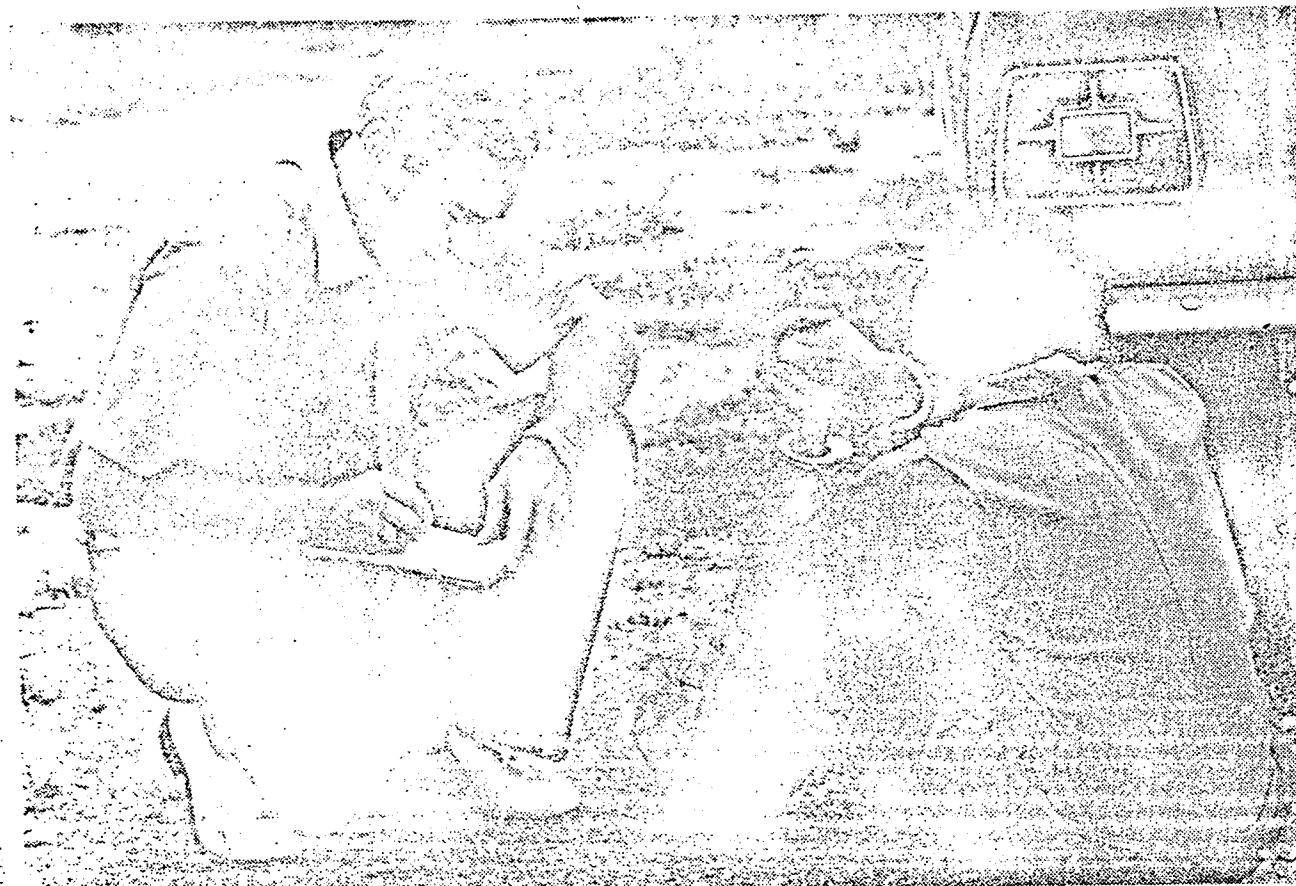
"All parents of children who have been gone longer than 24 hours will tell you their children were victims of violence," Horton said. "The real reasons are varied—arguments or whatever."

"It is extremely difficult for some young people to adjust to today's society...What are they to believe? Leading a decent, honorable, lawful life can seem dull compared to the 'exciting' life of those violating the law," he said.

The 1972 missing person figures for juveniles was 7.5 per cent lower than 1971's 5,652 figure. While most reports dropped in a breakdown of the missing by police districts, four of the 20 districts showed an increase.

Two districts in the general area of the missing boys believed dead, the northwest area of Houston, showed about a 7.5 per cent increase. District 15, in far south Houston, showed the biggest increase, 17.3 per cent.

District 5 reported 138 miss-



Detective Karl Siebeneicher questions Henley at shed

—Post photo by E. Joseph Deering

ing juveniles, District 6 had 448 and District 15 had 261.

The missing persons detail is split into adult and juvenile sections which operate basically the same way, Horton said.

One juvenile officer is assigned to each section. Reports are taken and initial investigations are made.

Questions are aimed at determining whether the missing person ran away or was possibly abducted.

"The decision is left up to the discretion of the police officer," Horton said. "Much of

it depends on intuition and hunches, after a while you come up with typed experiences of disappearances where violence could have been involved," said Horton, a 32-year veteran on the force.

He pointed out that the function of law enforcement agencies is to enforce the laws of the state—and there are virtually no laws against leaving home.

"It is really more of a public service—a courtesy," the captain said of the detail.

The vagueness of the laws are a problem in dealing with

juvenile runaways, Horton said. He posted a new family code adopted by the legislature during the last session. A section defined a missing child as:

"The voluntary absence of a child from his house without the consent of his parents or guardians for a substantial length of time or without the intent to return."

Horton said, "What is a substantial length of time? What if we find a child who says he plans to return home, say, at Christmas? Does that constitute an intent to return?"

The captain said there were many questions about the code which would probably have to be settled in the courts.

Law enforcement officers, welfare workers and other youth workers will meet with district judges to discuss the code in an Aug. 24 meeting, Horton said.

Until investigators finish probing for more bodies, some officers can only wonder how many answers to questions on missing person reports will be found in shallow graves.

Names of 6 Boys Feared To Be Murder Victims

Chron 8-10-73
Police say they have reason to believe the following six boys are among the victims in the mass murder case growing out of the shooting death of Dean Corll:

- Jerry L. Waldrop, no age available, son of Everett Waldrop, of 455 N. Highland Ave., NE No. 4, Atlanta, Ga., missing since 1971.

- Donald W. Waldrop, no age available, brother of Jerry Waldrop and of the same address, also missing since 1971.

- Mark S. Scott, 18, son of W. T. and Mary Scott, 927 W. 25th Ave., missing since Dec. 22, 1972, described as a friend of Corll and Elmer Wayne Henley.

- Ruben W. Watson, no age available, son of Mrs. Eugene Haney, 1102 Arlington, missing since Aug. 17, 1971.

- Homer Garcia, 15, 5474 Darnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luis Garcia, missing since July 17, 1973.

- Richard Hembree, 13, 1426 W. 21st, missing since Oct. 2, 1972.



HILLIGIEST

By DAVID POWELL

Post Reporter

It was a long, day Thursday for the Hilligiest and Cobble families.

They waited for official word from authorities that the bodies of their missing sons were included in the 14 bodies unearched by 6 p.m. Thursday at a southwest Houston warehouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilligiest, of 402 W. 27th, and their five other children have searched in vain for the missing boy, 13-year-old David, since he disappeared May 30, 1971, with a friend, 15-year-old Gregory Malley Winkle, of 407 W. 26th.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Cobble, 304 W. 27th, said their son, Charles Cary, 17, was last seen July 25. He disappeared with a friend, Marty Ray Jones, 18, whose last known address was 1010 Woodland.

For the Hilligiests, Thursday began with the

From page 1

Clover, 407 W. 26th, told the Hilligiests late Wednesday night that Malley's younger brother, Ben, saw the two boys climb into the van after a lone man offered them a ride.

Dean Corll, the 33-year-old Pasadena man killed Wednesday when the bizarre series of discoveries began of an undetermined number of young males found dead, reportedly drove a white van.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, son of Mrs. Mary Henley of 825 W. 27th, has told police he shot Corll and subsequently led authorities to the burial site.

Hilligiest said he spent \$1,100 for a private detective who looked for the boy for several weeks shortly after David disappeared.

He said the detective found several leads but never was able to locate the youth. After several weeks, Hilligiest said he had used up his savings and could not afford to pay the detective more.

About one year ago, the Hilligiests had about 500 printed posters bearing the boys' pictures and descriptions and offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to their location, Hilligiest said.

Even Henley, a neighbor of the Hilligiests,

Post 8-10
**A long day
for families
of missing**



WINKLE

10 p.m. Wednesday television newscast, when they first heard one of the bodies found at the Southwest Boat Storage warehouse, 4300 West of Silver Bell, might be that of their missing son.

They went without sleep into Thursday night and waited for official verification, said Hilligiest, who works in the street marking section of the city traffic department.

They even tried unsuccessfully early Thursday to gain entrance to the site of the mass grave, where officers and jail trustees dug up body after body.

And, most important to the family, they finally were informed that a witness had seen a man in a white van pick up David and Malley Winkle as they walked to go swimming that day more than two years ago.

It was the last time they know the two youths were seen alive in Houston, Hilligiest said.

He said Malley Winkle's aunt, Mrs. Joyce

Please see Long/page 19A

distributed some posters for the family, Mrs. Hilligiest said.

"There just isn't one thing that Mom and Dad haven't tried," said Mrs. Doyle Kay, one of David's older sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. Cobble waited, anxiously, too, at their apartment one block down the street from the Hilligiests.

Mrs. Cobble said a neighbor saw their son Charles and Jones, leaving the apartment grounds as a young man with a thin moustache followed closely behind them.

She (the neighbor) said he (Charles) had a real strange look on his face," Mrs. Cobble said.

The next day, Charles called his father, a supervisor at the main post office, and asked for \$1,000, she said.

"He was very, very upset," she said.

Cobble agreed, in barely audible tones.

Charles told Cobble he was in "very serious trouble," Mrs. Cobble said, but would not state what kind of trouble or reveal where he was.

He said he would call back the next day.

"He never called back," she said.

Mrs. Cobble said Marty made a similar call to his father and also asked for \$1,000 because he was "in trouble."

Marty never called back either, Mrs. Cobble said.

School Records Show Henley

As Excellent Student Who Failed

Chron 8-10-73

Elmer Wayne Henley's record at Hamilton Junior High was one of failure after failure in the eighth and ninth grade but in the seventh grade he was an excellent student, recording four As and two Bs during one semester.

The youngster academic ability was above average based on standard testing. His IQ scores ranged between 110 and 120, enough to indicate he

could have done college level work.

But when he reached 17 and was no longer required to attend school, he quit.

Mrs. Lucinda Willard, attendance officer at Hamilton, says she remembers Henley as a polite boy burdened by adult responsibilities.

"When he was in school, he worked both days and nights with school in between and I

can see why his grades went down," she says. "I see why he would want to quit school and that is the reason, I feel he needed to make money to support the family. I tried to get him to stay in school but when I learned all the circumstances, I didn't press the boy."

Tom Tyson, assistant principal at Hamilton, says he talked with Henley several days before the spring term closed.

"He came by my office and asked about his brothers who were in school here," Tyson recalled. "He was very polite, yes sir and no sir and that sort of thing.

"He said he hoped to get a high school diploma by taking tests and then planned to get into the service. He seemed self confident and I'd say he had changed since he was a student."

Henley has a police juvenile record that includes, arrest for assault with a deadly weapon in 1971 and burglary and theft of a residence in 1972.

Henley said he was found guilty of delinquency and given probation.

Count Nears Record

For Mass Murders

Chron 8-10-73

Houston's mass murders now rank as the largest such toll in recent Texas history.

Twenty-one bodies have been found and there may be more.

The previous Texas record was the 16 persons killed by sniper Charles Whitman in Austin on Aug. 1, 1966.

After killing his wife and mother, Whitman shot and killed 14 persons from the University of Texas tower before officers shot him to death.

Other recent mass murders:

- "The Boston Strangler" killed 13 women from June, 1962, to January, 1964. Albert Henry DeSalvo confessed but was never convicted for lack of evidence. (However, he was sentenced to life in 1967 on unrelated charges.)

- Richard Speck, 24, killed eight female nurses in Chicago on July 14, 1966. He is serving a life term.

- "The Zodiac Killer" is believed to have killed at least five persons in the San Francisco area in 1968-69. But the person who claimed to be the "Zodiac" said in the letters to newspapers that he killed 17 persons. He has not been caught.

- The Manson "family" killed seven persons, including actress Sharon Tate, in two incidents in Southern California Aug. 9-10, 1969. Charles Manson was also found guilty of two other murders which took place in the desert.

- Edmund Emil Kemper III, 24, is presently charged with killing eight women in the Santa Cruz area of northern California in 1972-73. He previously killed his grandparents when he was 14.

- Mark Essex, a sniper, was killed atop Howard Johnson's Hotel in New Orleans Jan. 8, 1973, after six persons had died.

- Herbert W. Mullin, 25, is presently charged with killing 10, also in the Santa Cruz, Cal., area. Mullin's attorney at the current trial has said Mullin admits 13 slayings.

Statements About Killing Of Corll Not Released

Chron. 8-10-73
Pasadena's acting Police Chief Charles W. Denson says he will not release statements about the killing of Dean Corll because it is pretrial evidence that might lead to a defense claim that the case has been prejudiced in court. Pasadena police have a statement from Elmer Wayne

Henley, 17, who says he shot Corll to death, and from a boy and a girl who witnessed the shooting Wednesday in Corll's Pasadena home. "If we allow pretrial evidence to be published in the news, the defense then will have a chance to claim we prejudiced the case in court," Denson said.



Photo by Othell O. Owensby Jr., Chronicle Staff

Chron. 8-10-73
DAVID BROOKS HIDES FACE
Police Question Him in Slayings
He Saw Nude Scene

Youth Says Corll Gave Him a New Car to Keep Quiet

A youth says Dean Corll gave him a new car to keep quiet about two boys he saw strapped to a board in Corll's old apartment.

The youth, David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd., implicated in the mass killings, told police in a written statement Thursday he walked into Corll's Yorktown St. apartment one afternoon without knocking.

He said he saw two naked boys in another room strapped to a board.

Corll, also naked, asked Brooks, "What are you doing here?" Brooks said.

He said Corll then offered him a new car if he would not mention what he had seen.

Brooks, now married, said he later got the car.

He first met Corll while visiting Houston from Beaumont about three years ago, he said.

He said he later moved to Houston and Corll paid him \$5 to \$10 for sexual services.

Brooks said he moved in with Corll after he had known him for at least a year and they roomed together at various intervals.

But he said he was afraid of Corll and they often quarreled.

About the time he first moved in with Corll, Brooks said, he introduced Elmer Wayne Henley, a friend, to Corll.

Henley and Corll became good friends, Brooks said, and the two became involved in killing juveniles.

He did not say how the killings took place.

Henley has implicated Brooks in the slayings. Brooks did not admit taking part in any but said he knew of some killings.

Brooks said he once walked into Corll's apartment and was slugged by Henley and thrown on the bed. He said

Corll took sexual liberties with him while Henley went into another room.

He said Henley and Corll once handcuffed a boy by pretending to show him a trick with the handcuffs and then slipping them over his wrists.

Henley wanted to kill the boy but Corll talked him out of it, Brooks said.

He said the boy was released.

Brooks said he knew two boys he thought had been killed, Mark Scott and Ruben Haney. Both boys are missing.

Homicide Lt. Breck Porter said Brooks was held in jail overnight on hold for suspicion of murder.

Porter said Henley had advised Brooks to tell everything.

Twisted, Bright Mind May Have Led to Killings

Chron. 8-10-73
BY MOSELLE BOLAND
Chronicle Medical Writer

A bright, well-organized but emotionally ill personality dominates a situation leading to such events as the mass murders uncovered here.

This is the opinion of three Houston psychiatrists.

One psychiatrist, at Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences (TRIMS) says the sexual sadism and homosexuality are almost incidental

to the deep-seated emotional disturbance which triggers such killings.

The psychiatrists emphasize that they have no way to know the mental state of any of the persons allegedly involved in the mass slayings, which may reach 30. They discussed the general personality attributes which might lead to such an event.

"Sadism or unusual sexual patterns tend to be linked with homicidal tendencies in the minds of the public," the TRIMS psychiatrist says. "Actually they occur together only rarely."

"Probably Bright"

The psychiatrist says that for a person to kill so many and not be detected "requires a reasonable amount of organization. This means the central figure probably is a bright psychotic."

Persons associated with him in the crimes, however, might not be emotionally ill, he says.

"When a severely disturbed person is highly significant to an associate, the associate may act out the same disturbed behavior pattern without being sick himself," the psychiatrist says.

Another Agrees

A Baylor College of Medicine psychiatrist agreed.

"I am not even sure that psychiatry has an explanation or a label for such a horrible event," he says.

"A person would have to be severely disturbed or totally devoid of emotion or internal control to conceive of such a thing.

"I agree that accomplices may not be psychotic to be caught up in the events."

Another TRIMS psychiatrist says the severely mentally ill person sometimes kills in a cold, calculating way "because he feels it is his destiny or because he thinks he is saving mankind."

Corll Once Resided In Heights Area

Chron. 8-10-73
Suspected mass-slayer Dean Allen Corll once lived in the Heights area of near northwest Houston, where several possible victims resided.

Corll, who police say may have killed as many as 30 youths, lived in the Heights at 915 Columbia about three years ago.

Two youths whom police suspect of aiding Corll in the murders either live or have lived in the Heights.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, who told police he killed nine victims, lives at 325 W. 27th.

David Owen Brooks, who Henley says participated in the killings, once went to Hamilton Junior High School in the Heights.

Two bodies of the 17 found in graves in a southwest Houston boat shed have been positively identified and both victims lived in the Heights.

They were Marty Jones, 17, of 1015 Arlington, and Charles C. Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th.

A list of other teen-agers missing from the Heights includes seven boys whose bodies police think may be in the graves at the shed.

They are:
Frank A. Aguirre, 19, of 922 W. Cottage

David Hilligiest, 13, of 402 W. 27th

Billy Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st

Mark Steven Scott, 19, of 927 W. 25th

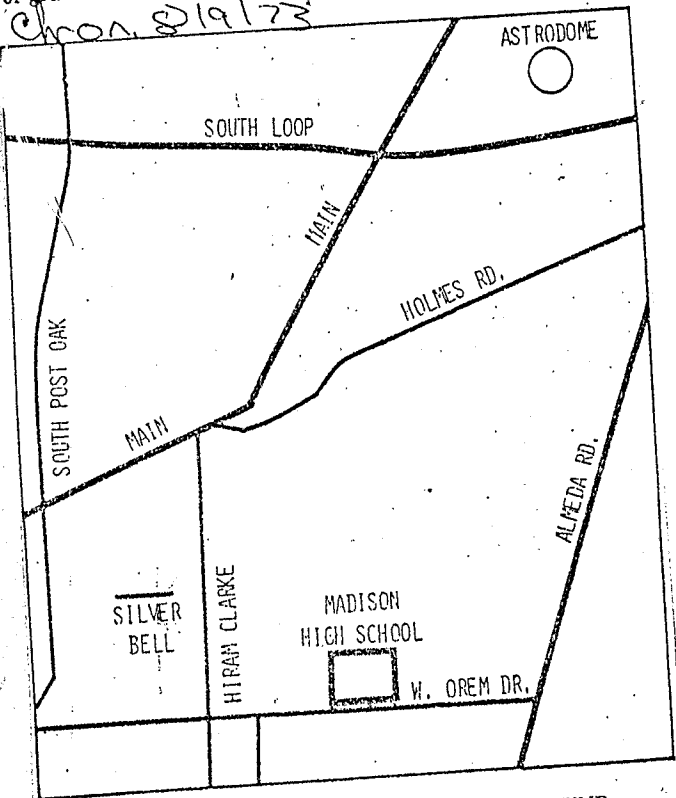
Jay Simineaux, 15, of 1213 24th

Ruben Watson Haney, 17, of 1102 Arlington

Gregory Winkel, 16, of 407 V. 26th

This map shows locations of the home of Dean Corll and James Stanton Dreymla. Corll, who was shot to death Wednesday, lived on Lamar St. in Pasadena. Dreymla lived in the same general area. Dreymla has been reported missing and it is feared that his body was among those dug out of graves on Silver Bell St. Wednesday night.

Chron. 8/19/73



MAP SHOWS STREET WHERE BODIES FOUND
Boat Storage Company in 4500 Block of Silver Bell

Chron. 8/19/73



Photo by David Nance, Chronicle Staff

BOY BREAKS DOWN AT BURIAL GROUND
Elmer Wayne Henley and Detective Karl Siebencicher

Six Are Believed to Be Teens Reported Missing

Chron. 8/19/73

Police believe that six of the eight bodies found buried are those of teen-agers reported missing by their parents.

The six: Gregory Malley Winkle, 15, of 407 W. 26th; James Stanton Dreymla, 14, of 5411 Laurel Creek; Marty Ray Jones, 17, of 1015 Arlington; David Hilligiest, 13, of 403 W. 27th; Charles Cary Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th; and Frank Anthony Aguirre, 18, of 932 W. Cottage.

All but Dreymla lived in the same area of the Heights as Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, of 325 W. 27th, who led police to the graves.

He said Dean Corll, 33, of 2020 Lamar in Pasadena, had told him of burying several persons. He said he shot Corll to death at a party early Wednesday.

Henley said he knew five of the six reported as missing and now feared dead.

A sixth boy, also missing, was tentatively identified through a bicycle registration. His bike was found near where the bodies were uncovered.

Gregory Winkle was last seen in May of 1971 with his friend David Hilligiest, according to David's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilligiest. The parents said both boys



GREGORY WINKLE



DAVID HILLIGIEST

left to go on a beach outing and never returned.

The Hilligiests said they hired a private detective to locate the boys. The detective reported that the boys were connected with drug pushers and a man called "Chicken Joe" who reportedly provided male prostitutes to homosexual clients.

The detective also told the parents that the boys were last seen in June of 1971 at a beach house on Crystal Beach.

Marty Jones and Charles Cobble had both left home because of a family squabble and were roommates in July this year according to Cobble's father, G. T. Cobble.

The fathers of both said they received calls from their sons on the morning of July 26. The boys, they told them they were in trouble and needed \$1000.

K. R. Jones, Marty Royther, said he felt they were involved with drug pushers and that was why they needed the money.

Both boys told their fathers they'd call back but never did.

James Stanton Dreymla, missing since last Friday, called his father and told he was staying at an all-party over the objection of his mother, Eloise.

When he failed to return home, she called police and said he left the house after school on his red bicycle. It matched the description of one police found in the boat shed on the ground. His home was in the Pasadena area.

Frank Eguirra was last seen in March, 1972, by his mother, Mrs. Josephine Eguirra, as he left for work at the John's Fish and Chip, 2206 Yale.

Mrs. Eguirra said Frank was to return home that night at 10 p.m. after work but failed to do so.

She said her son at that time was dating Ronald Williams, 15, the girl arrived Wednesday by Pasadena police at the house where they shot Corll.



Photo by David Nance, Chronicle Staff

THEY LED OFFICERS TO BURIED BODIES
Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, Says He Killed Friend

He Was 'a Polite Man, Loved To Be Around Kids'

BY CRAIG SMYSER
AND RAD SALLEE
Chronicle Staff

Mass slayer suspect Dean Allen Corll, 33, was "such a nice, polite man who loved to be around kids," says the mother of the youth who admits killing Corll.

Corll "didn't act like a man his age," said Mrs. Mary Henley, mother of Elmer Wayne Henley, 17.

Corll, she said, had only one occasion for anger.

"His eyes would flash when I joked about his age," she said. "He couldn't take being kidded about that."

Sitting in an old blue vinyl

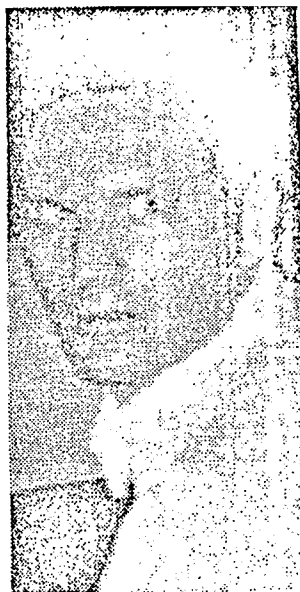
rocking chair late Wednesday night and kneading her forehead, Mrs. Henley described the relationship between her son and Corll:

"Dean treated Wayne like a son. And Wayne loved him like a father."

"I know Dean must've done something terrible to Wayne to make Wayne shoot him," she said.

Seated around Mrs. Henley on a battered couch and a bed converted into a divan were two of her four sons, Ronnie, 14, and Vernon, 12, and her mother, 64.

The gray reflection of a TV news program which an-



DEAN CORLL

nounced the discovery of another buried body in the shed rented by Corll flickered off the bare wooden floor.

"Dean loved to be around kids and prattle with them

(See HE, Page 2)

To Neighbors, Corll Polite,

Enigmatic

Chron. 8/19/73
To Dean Allen Corll's neighbors, he was quiet, polite and pleasant, and rather harmless, enigma.

A neighbor said Corll's father gave him the home at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena a few months ago.

It is another white frame home on a middle-class street of white frame homes.

Eugene Swander, 2018 Lamar, remembers his next-door neighbor as "a quiet, polite guy who took good care of his place and tinkered with cars in the yard."

"He had a Corvette he liked to work on a lot."

Swander said Corll was clean-shaven and cut his hair short, but "the fellows who used to come to Corll's place were just the opposite — almost hippie-types."

"And they came and went at pretty odd hours."

Mrs. Lester Simon, 2107 Lamar, said Corll would drive away in his white van on Saturday and come back late Sunday.

Billy Richardson, 2024 Lamar, said he had been a friend of Arnold Corll, Dean's father, "since they moved here in 1951."

Arnold Corll is an electrician foreman at Baylor College of Medicine.

He said Dean was raised by his mother, Arnold Corll's first wife. The elder Corll is an electrician, as is his son, and "a wonderful guy who just had a lot of bad luck," Richardson said.

He said Arnold Corll divorced his first wife and remarried.

But his second wife died of leukemia, Richardson said. "She was a really good woman."

Arnold Corll's present wife said her husband was under heavy sedation and could not talk about his son.

But her son, Walter Starr, said Dean was "on good terms with his father and visited him two or three times a week."

FROM PAGE 1

about cars or fishing," Mrs. Henley said.

She looked over at her two blond-haired sons as if suddenly unsure of their futures.

Her third son, Paul, 16, was with Mrs. Henley's sister in Mount Pleasant. But it was the mystery of her fourth son, Wayne, and of a man she thought she knew, Corll, that caused her to knit her brows.

She said Corll came by the Henley home, a small, white frame house at 325 W. 27th in northwest Houston, Tuesday, as he did "nearly every day."

He talked with her mother and Wayne before taking Wayne to a driver's training class in Bellaire, Mrs. Henley said.

About 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, she said, Wayne came by to say he was spending the night with a friend, Timothy Cordell Kelley, 20, of 820 Pinemont.

"And the next I hear from him, he's calling me from a boat storage yard in southwest Houston saying, 'Mama, I killed Dean,'" she said.

Mrs. Henley shook her head to stop the emotion from breaking up her voice and closed her eyes.

A small warehouse at the yard contained the bodies of at least eight persons wrapped in plastic bags and buried in shallow graves.

Mrs. Henley said Wayne dropped out of Hamilton Junior High School in 1970 in the ninth grade because his father had beaten him and shot at her. The Henleys have since divorced.

Mrs. Henley said Wayne had worked part-time since he was 11 to supplement her income as a cashier.

"But I don't understand this man Dean Corll," she said. "He ate Easter dinner with us; he worked on my car; he loved to play with the kids."

She said David Brooks, a friend of Wayne, introduced Wayne to Corll two years ago.

She said the three of them would go to a warehouse "near the Hiram Clarke power station where Corll worked" on weekends and work on cars.

Corll wouldn't even come into the house for a long time," she said.

"But about four months ago, Wayne began seeing a lot of Dean Corll," she said. "He spent the night over at Dean's apartment with David Brooks almost every Sunday."

She said Corll would drive over in a white van with a black couch in the back and sometimes pile 10 or 12 kids into the truck for a ride.

Mrs. Henley stopped her rocking chair and sat with her eyes closed.

"And the police won't let me see him (Wayne)," she said. "All I know about him is what I heard on the news. I won't know how he is until tomorrow."

Suddenly, Ronnie, who had been sitting politely at the end of the room, leaned forward eagerly. "Mama," he said. "Wayne'll be all right. He did the only thing he could have done."

Halfway through his sentence, Mrs. Henley put her fingers to her lips in a gesture of silence.

Ronnie stopped speaking, but sat back, his eyes still full of what he wanted to say.

Shocked by Wayne's shooting of Corll, Mrs. Henley said she had seen her son cry after shooting a rabbit.

She stood up from her rocking chair and pushed her feet deeper into her cloth slippers.

"I don't know what to think," she said. "But, Lord, I'm tired and it's going to be a long night."

Chron. 8/19/73

8 Are Found Slain; Police Expect More

BY LARRY COOPER AND
DAVID PAYNE
Chronicle Staff

Shallow graves in a rented boat stall have yielded the nude bodies of eight boys believed victims of a sexual pervert, and police said they expected to find more bodies. Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, a Hamilton Junior High School dropout, led police to the

grave sites Wednesday after saying he shot and killed Dean Allen Corll, 33, an electrician, during a paint-sniffing party at Corll's Pasadena home.

Henley, 325 W. 27th St., said Corll, a bachelor, told him that within the last year, "the had killed some people, and buried them" in his rented boat stall at 4500 Silver Bell in

southwest Houston, near where he worked.

Corll, 2020 Lamar, Pasadena, employed by Houston Lighting & Power Co., was pictured by Henley as a sexual pervert and by others as a "nice, polite man who loved to be around kids."

Henley said he and another youth, a 15-year-old girl and Corll sniffed acrylics out of a

bag at the Tuesday night party at Corll's frame house until the youths passed out. Henley said he was awakened by Corll putting handcuffs on him.

The other youth, Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, of 820 Pinemont, and the girl, Rhonda Louise Williams, 15, of 240 W. 23rd, were already bound, Henley said.

"He woke us up and was tying us up and handcuffing us," Henley said. "He said he was going to kill us all, but first he was going to have his fun."

Henley said Corll released him and dragged him into the kitchen, threatening him with a gun and knife.

"I sweet-talked him," said (See BODIES, Page 2)

FROM PAGE 1

Henley, "and promised I'd torture and kill them (the other youth and the girl) for him if he'd let me go, so he did."

Henley said the boy and girl had been stripped naked and spread-eagled on a five-foot board with holes bored in it for hands and feet, held by handcuffs. Their mouths had been taped.

Henley said Corll wanted him to sexually attack the girl and that he (Corll) would attack the boy.

Henley said he went to the bathroom and returned.

"I picked up the gun from the table," he said. "I told him to back off and stop what he was doing. He said something and came at me and I shot him."

Henley said he released the other boy and girl and called Pasadena police at 8:24 a.m. The three waited for police on the front porch of Corll's house, he said.

Pasadena police said that Timothy C. Kerley and Rhonda Louise Williams told virtually the same story as the Henley youth had told as to what happened in Corll's home before the slaying.

Henley led Houston and Pasadena police to the boat stall.

Jail trustees began digging and had found the eight naked bodies when operations ceased temporarily at 2 a.m. today.

Besides the bodies, the stall contained an auto, which police said had been stolen.

The bodies were wrapped in plastic.

They were believed to be those of boys reported missing during the past two years.

Medical examiner's investigator M. C. Kelly said the missing boys ranged in age from 12 to 16. He said the bodies recovered appeared to be those of boys reported missing in the last two or three weeks. Two others had skulls in such a condition they could be identified only through dental records, he said.

More Than One

Homicide Lt. Breck Porter said he believes "very strongly" that more than one person did "this sadistic, perverted work."

"No one man could have done it," Porter said. "In 22 years of police work, I have never seen anyone capable of doing such a thing."

Porter said there could be other places of burial for possibly more victims.

The stall in which the bodies were found was number 11 at the Southwest Boat Storage which is owned by Mrs. Mayme E. Meynier, 13001 Player Rd., said her daughter, Mrs. Julie Harriman.

Mrs. Meynier's records show that Corll rented the stall Nov. 17, 1970.

Not all of the sheds were used for boat storage. Several have other things stored in them.

Mrs. Harriman said Corll was "very outgoing, very nice."

"He went out of his way to come by and visit my mother's house," she said.

Mrs. Harriman said Corll visited the stall regularly, two or three times a week.

"When he came, he was always unloading things," she said.

In June, she said, she saw two men, one she believed to be Corll, unload something very heavy into the stall.

The daughter said Corll had asked on several occasions recently to rent another stall, but that none was available.

Corll drove a white van that had a couch inside and hooks on the van walls that did not appear usable for lashing down material hauled.

Henley said he frequently drank beer with Corll.

He said Corll planned to quit his job and travel.

"I was going to travel with Corll. Once he said to Dallas and another time to Reno," Henley said. "He was supposed to be in some kind of organization that he could get

money from. He talked of thousands and thousands of dollars.

"I didn't really believe this, because Dean lived poor," Henley said. "He just had an old TV, no stereo and just a transistor radio. He'd be broke once a month when the bills came in."

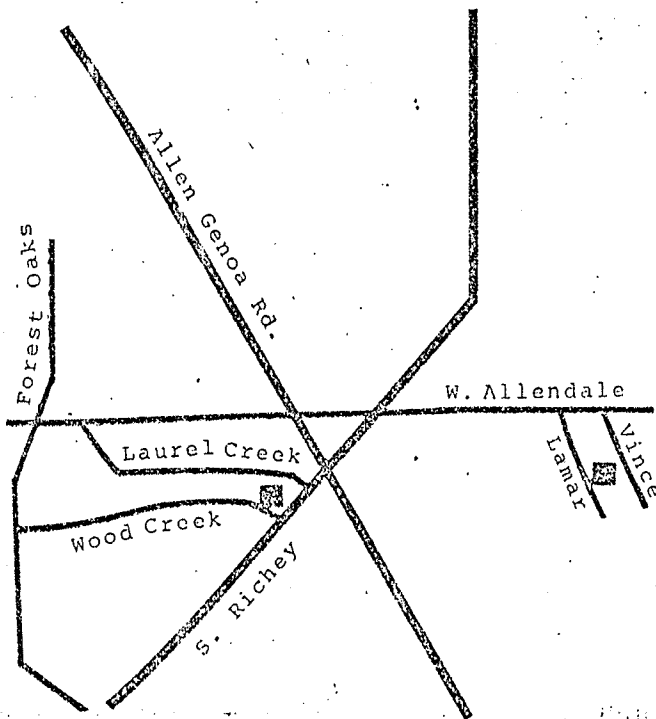
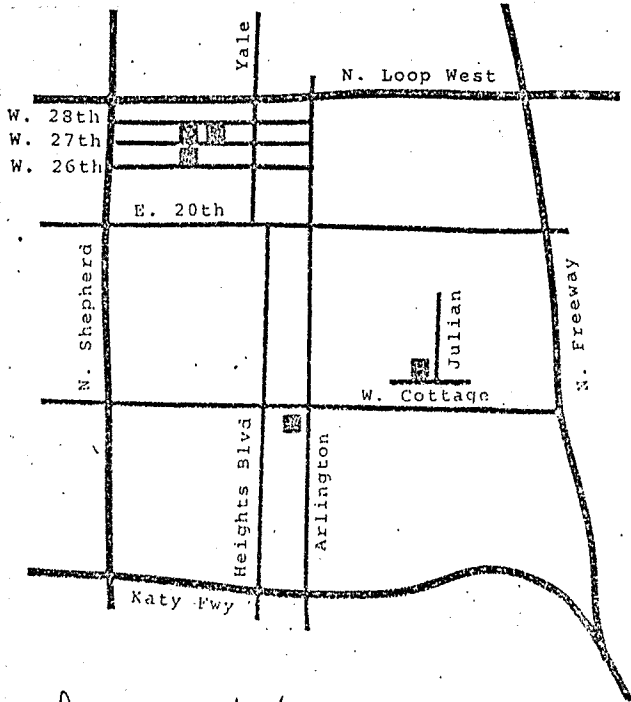
Since dropping out of school, Henley has worked at several jobs. He quit his last job as an employe of an asphalt plant in April. Since, he said, he had worked at odd jobs.

Medical examiner's investigator Eddie Knowles described a room in Corll's home as "rigged up with sadistic stuff." He said there was a plank on the floor with several pairs of handcuffs and that Corll's van was rigged with hooks.

Pasadena Detective Sidney Smith described the plank as a five-foot board with holes for hands and feet. He said victims apparently would be tied down on the board. Smith said also there was an array of knives and handcuffs in the house.

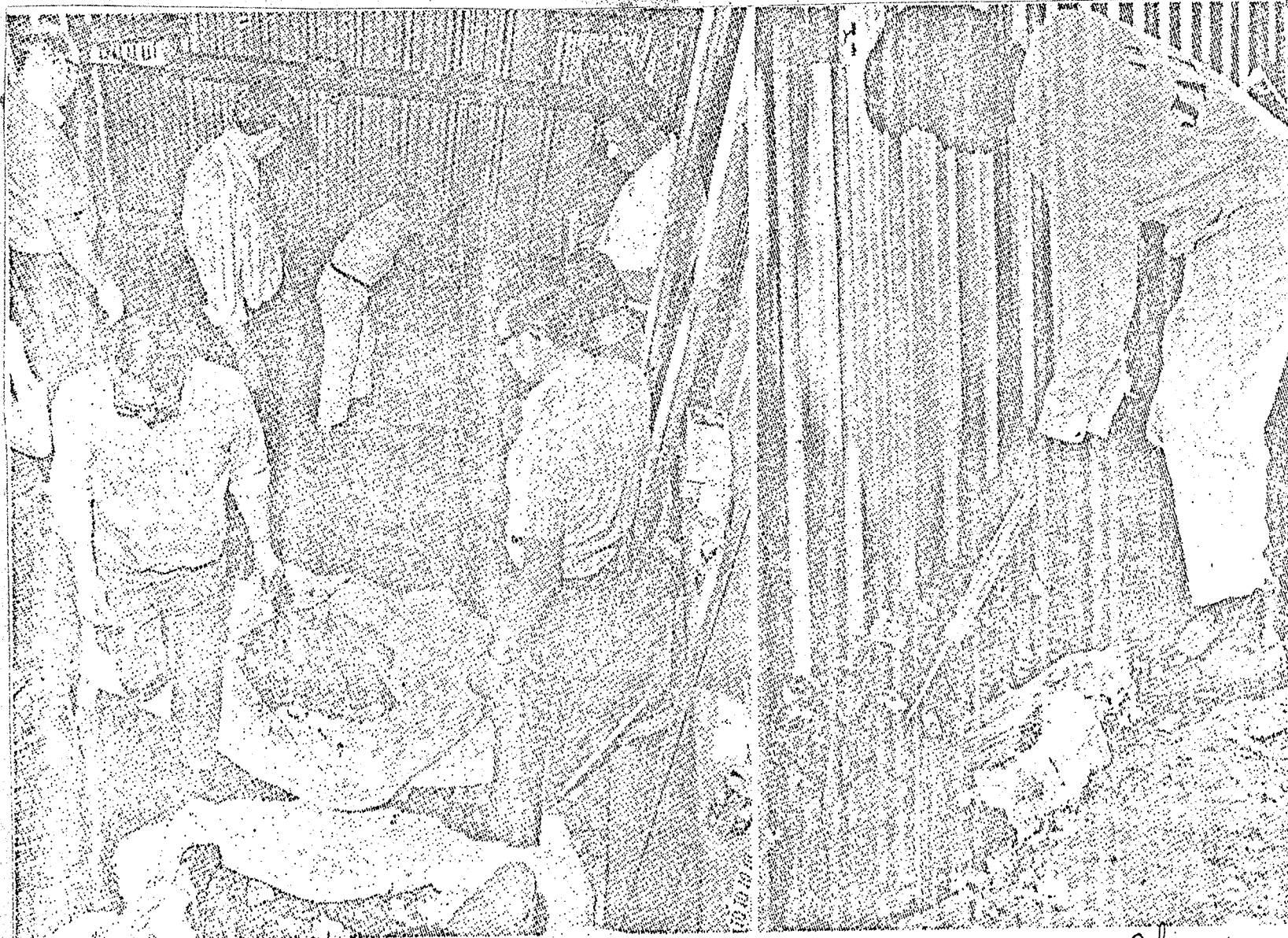
Pasadena Detective David Mullican said Henley volunteered the information that Corll had told him of killing youths and burying them in the shed.

Police believe that some of the victims may have been youths from Henley's neighborhood whom Corll perhaps had visited to that area.



Chron. 8/19/73

This area of the Heights is a lower middle economic class neighborhood. It is where the homes are of five of six young persons believed to be among eight persons found buried in a southwest Houston boat storage shed Wednesday. The five were Gregory M. Winkle, 15, 407 W. 26th; Marty R. Jones, 17, 1015 Arlington; David Hilligiest, 13, 403 W. 27th; Charles C. Cobble, 17, 304 W. 37th, and Frank A. Aguirra, 18, 932 W. Cottage. Elmer W. Henley, 17, who led police to the bodies, also lives in the area at 325 W. 27th. The sixth youth tentatively identified as a possible victim, James S. Dreymla, 14, lived at 5411 Laurel Creek in southeast Houston near Pasadena.



Photos by Greg Smith and David Nance, Chronicle Staff

AUTHORITIES UNCOVER EIGHT BODIES IN BOAT STALL IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON
 Four Remains Found in Hole, Center of Left Photo; Right, City Jail Trusty Digs Up First Body

Chron. 8/19/73

Mass murderer in Chicago set slaying record in 1800s

Post 8-14-72

All the talk about the Houston area's mass murders setting a record seems to be pointless, a check of sources showed Monday.

The most prolific murderer identified in recent criminal history was a Chicago man who allegedly disposed of at least 150 bodies in the late 1800s.

Herman Webster Mudgett, better known as H.H. Holmes, confessed to 27 deaths of men, women and children. He has been blamed with taking the lives of up to 200 more.

Holmes was described as a man who had "quiet blue eyes set off by nicely attached curly brown hair."

The courts tried him for one murder and he

was found guilty in the death of a business associate, Benjamin Pitzel. Holmes was hanged May 7, 1896.

Holmes lived in a building known as Holmes Castle from 1888 to 1894, the time of the Chicago World Fair.

After the Pitzel murder, police searching the home found it honeycombed with trap doors and secret passages. Behind a fake wall in the basement there was a large stove and a wood table which bore the markings similar to those on a butcher chopping block.

After the house was burned, police found the remains of an estimated more than 200 corpses in the basement.

Short Fires Back

Russ Raps Houston Police

Police Chief Herman B. Short says the Soviet government newspaper accusing his department of "astounding inaction" on reports of missing juveniles is "about the silliest thing I can think of."

The newspaper Izvestia article, reported Tuesday by United Press International, said the "indifference" and "murderous bureaucracy" revealed by the sex-murders case had brought home the extent to which people in Houston had become alienated.

"The inaction of police has been the most astounding aspect of this story," the article said.

Short said he doubts that Izvestia had checked its facts, since "the records are here to show the police department's activity in all these cases."

"I don't know what they think they're going on."

Asked if he ever expected to get attention in the Soviet media, Short laughed and said he hadn't.

"I'm not in this job to try and satisfy Russia," he said.

He hurled a barb of his own.

"I wonder if they'd like to write a little story about the number of people the government has killed over there — taking their property and annihilating them."

"I don't believe we've had anything like that happen in Houston in the last several days."

Dreymala Boy's Body Identified

HOUSTON (Sp) — The body of James Stanton Dreymala, 14-year-old son of Lee College instructor James Dreymala, has been identified from fingerprints as a victim in Houston's mass murders.

In Houston, Dist. Atty. Carol Vance took the mass sex-murder slaying case before a Homicide Detective Ned Newman notified Dreymala by telephone of the identification about 11:20 a.m.

The Dreymala boy had been missing since Friday, Aug. 3, from his Houston home just outside Pasadena city limits where Dean Allen Corll, 33, Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, said he killed Corll, police reported earlier, and authorities he procured a homosexual torture-murder ring.

Henley has since pointed out the graves of 27 youths allegedly killed during the past three years by Corll, Henley and David Brooks, 18, police say.

Fingerprints were taken Monday from the Dreymala youth's bedroom, and a spokesman said they were used in the identification process.

The search for additional bodies ceased late Monday after four bodies had been found on a weatherbeaten strip of beach on the Gulf Coast some 70 miles east of Houston at High Island.

Sources in the district attorney's office said testimony would be presented by Billy Ridinger. The boy's age and background were unknown but his name was in a statement given police by one of two teenagers charged with murder in the investigation.

The search for additional bodies ceased late Monday after four bodies had been found on a weatherbeaten strip of beach on the Gulf Coast some 70 miles east of Houston at High Island.

Mass murders focus attention on the interpretations of 'sick'



If you were on a jury and deciding the fate of someone involved in one of the nation's worst cases of sadistic mass murder, what position would you take?

Would you say that anyone mixed up in such a horrendous thing must be crazy? Would you say the person had to be sick, sick, sick?

Such questions are at the very core of a new way that a number of psychologists and psychiatrists are looking at "the mentally sick" and what "crazy" behavior means.

To say that a person is "mentally sick" implies he has a disease. This "disease model" is now what is being increasingly challenged. Both social psychiatrists such as Eric Berne and humanistic psychologists such as A. H. Maslow were inclined to say that "mental illness" is much more a matter of decision than disease.

The "decision model" that is now gaining increasing acceptance is based on this theory: Events happen in a person's life, often in early life, that lead him to making certain decisions about himself and the world. Too frequently these decisions are negative—people are no damned good or I'm no good or men

have only sex on their mind or people can't be trusted or you can't get close to anyone without getting hurt.

Without intending too, many people go through their lives setting things up so their decisions will be confirmed. They marry the wrong person and this confirms one of their decisions. They can't keep a job and this reinforces the way they look at people and the world.

Dr. Blair Justice

To the person involved, all these bad things happen because of external circumstances over which he has no control. Actually, the person brings them on himself as a way of confirming his early decisions. If he ends up abusing other people sexually, such behavior relates to his basic decisions toward life. If he ends up also killing them, this too is part of carrying out the kind of "script" that is the consequence of his way of looking at life and people.

It's a matter of decision, then, not disease, under this theory. This isn't to say

that a small fraction of people do destructive things to themselves or others, or who simply can't function in society, don't have something biologically and organically wrong with their body or brain. But these people are the exception, not the rule.

As to being "crazy" this is yet another way a person can confirm his negative decisions. He can go crazy as a result of deciding he's no good, other people are no good, and the only answer to him is to retreat into a world of fantasy. A better answer would be to "re-decision" — to change the negative decisions to positive ones.

Maslow believed that illness and sickness ought to be stricken from the vocabularies of people who try to help "the mentally sick" or "neurotic." He said all behavior can be described in terms of how "human" it is. "Full-humanness" is the goal and represents the behavior of someone who has "actualized" or fulfilled his human potentials and possibilities.

People who act "crazy" or "mentally sick" represent examples of "human diminution." They are "diminishing" themselves by such behavior. And, if such theories are correct, they must bear the responsibility for living as diminished humans.

WELCH SPEAKS UP FOR POLICE

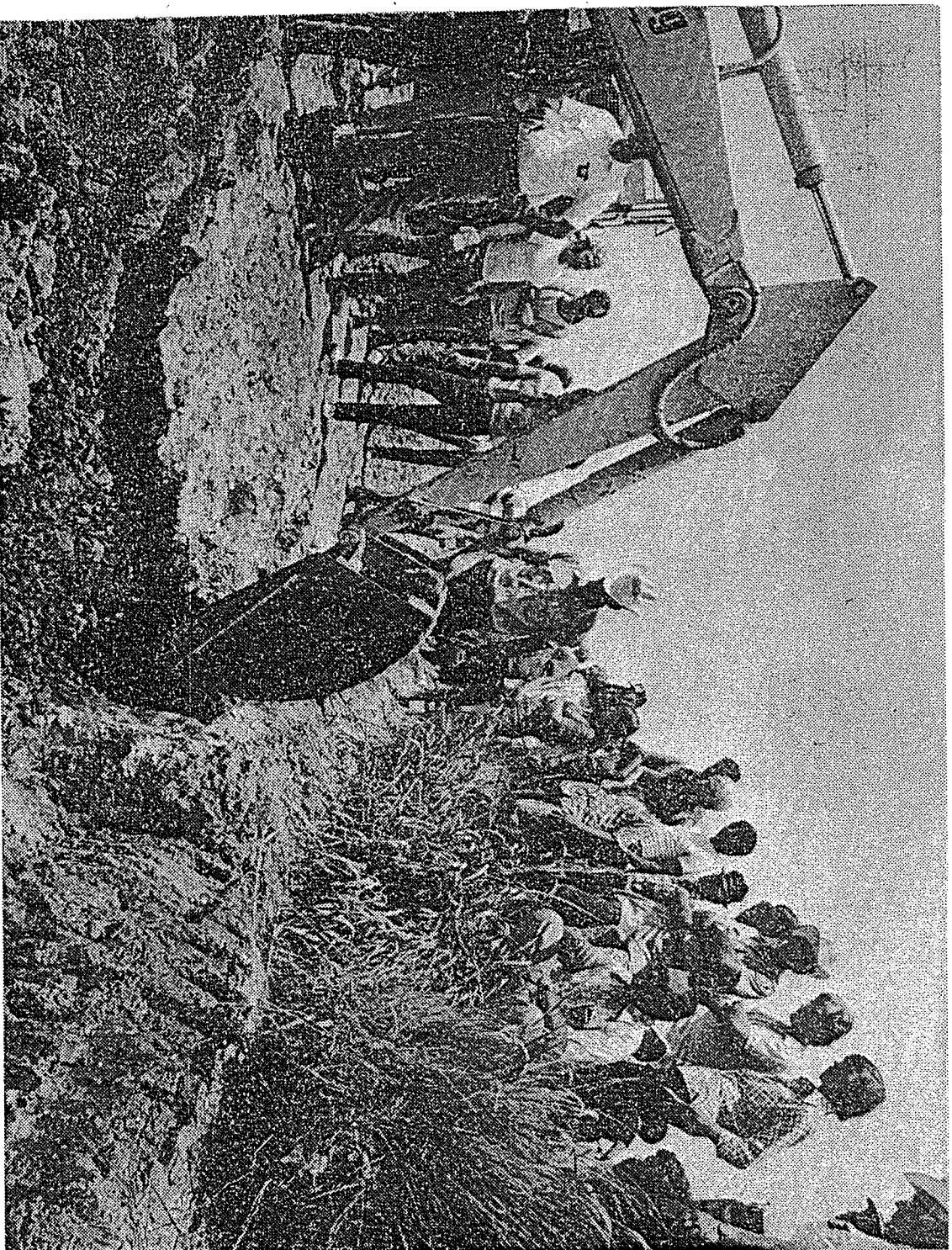
Mayor Louie Welch defended Houston police against charges of foot-dragging on cases involving missing youths.

"The police can't be expected to know where a child is if his parents don't," Welch said.

He added that police often are criticized for stopping and questioning youngsters.

"I don't know how they can win when they get criticism no matter what they do," he said.

Chronicle 8-15-72



Heavy equipment is used as search for bodies continues on High Island

—Post photo by Bela Ugrin

Mass slaying death count climbs to 27

Post 8-24-72
By ANN JAMES
Post Reporter

Four more remains of boys were unearthed Monday by law enforcement officers in a four mile stretch of beach at High Island, bringing the total to 27 boys known to have been killed and buried by a sex slaying ring.

Three were skeletal. The other, over the Chambers County line inside Jefferson County, was on its back with bluejeaned legs sprawled.

Louis Otter said he and his crew would be back to work Tuesday, probing the beach for more victims unless some-

one could assure him there were only six buried there.

The last two, found in one shallow grave 1,218 feet from the second Chambers County grave were simply heaps of black bones.

Other says he thinks they were tied together with sash cord and rolled into the hole together. No clothing was found in that grave.

The curious allowed one another and the media for a

close look, and cowboy-booted Mary Dugat, Chambers County justice of the peace, said she had considered fining every one of them \$20 for interfering with her work.

Other adopted a trenching method, turning over a mile and a half of soil with a grader, probing the dark discolored spots with a back hoe. Shovels were used for the final work.

The Jefferson County discovery was directed by Sheriff's Capt. G. W. Woods. He had been called by two High Island men, George Leger and L. C. "Bucky" Faggard. Leger is a lawyer for Faggard.

Please see Death/ Page 19A

From page 1

gurd's Gulf Vacuum Service and may be the only witness to surprise the suspected trio at their grisly work.

It was around Christmas last year when Leger saw a man on the beach he thought was struck in the sand and offered to help him. His offer was rejected with the young man saying he had two other men with him.

Friday, Leger saw Wayne Henley on the beach and recognized him as the youth who had refused his offer of help.

Leger and Faggard went to the spot Leger remembered, found a soft area and probed it with a stick. The fetid odor that escaped convinced them that they had found a grave. The first two bodies were found before noon. The last two were found just at the

time Otter planned to shut down operations on the beach.

Houston detectives Jim Tucker and Jack Hamel said that they expected to be able to identify the victim in Jefferson County by prints. His head, however, like all the others was encased in plastic that apparently held him.

Perhaps the most macabre touch in the entire day's digging came when some onlooker's small black Chihuahua dog trotted gaily into the pit from which the bones of the second victim found had been retrieved.

A helicopter from Johnson Space Center carrying a photo interpreter flew over the sandy beach area several times to try to determine whether photographic techniques would aid in finding more bodies.

Neither Henley, 17, nor David Brooks, 18, both of whom

have been charged with murder in connection with the mass slayings were at the digging sites Monday.

Instead of questioning the youths further officers from Galveston, Chambers and Jefferson Counties, wardens from the Parks and Wildlife Commission, highway patrolmen and Texas Ranger Charlie Neal of Lufkin were relying on their own methods to find the graves.

The mass slaying ring came to list last Wednesday when Henley shot and killed Dean Allen Corll, 33, at Corll's home at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena.

Henley told police that Corll was the center of an alleged homosexual sex-slaving ring that had operated for three years undetected in Houston. He claimed he shot Corll in self-defense.

Brooks was brought in by his father and gave a statement to Houston police describing many slayings at several addresses over a period of years.

Houston officers also dug for several hours Monday behind a store on West 22nd where Corll was said to have worked.

Police began the digging after a woman told them she had seen Corll bury something behind the store in 1965.

Police said they found nothing. Only five of the known 27 dead have been positively identified.

Monday morning District Judge George L. Walker granted the state's motion to dismiss a writ of habeas corpus for Henley in which his lawyers had asked that the

accused youth be released from jail.

Henley's lawyers, Charles Melder and Edwin F. Pegelow, argued that no probable cause had been shown for the confinement of Henley.

Carol S. Vance, Harris County district attorney, argued that probable cause had been shown in the filing of charges and setting of bond.

Henley has been charged with murder in the death of two boys found in Houston and three in San Augustine County. Bonds of \$100,000 were set on each charge.

Brooks is also under \$100,000 bond on one charge of murder in the death of a boy found in San Augustine County.

Vance told the court that Henley would be put in an isolated cell in the Harris County jail. Melder had asked that Henley be kept apart

from other prisoners.

In a press conference Monday, Police Chief Heman Short said there is evidence that some of the slayings occurred at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

He said police had found "paraphernalia used to commit these sadistic acts" in a cabin near the lake. There was speculation that the cabin may have belonged to Corll's parents.

Short said some of the things found in the cabin included plastic bags and a board similar to that found in Corll's Pasadena home.

Henley has said the board found in the Pasadena home was used to shackle the youths during unnatural sex acts.

Short said that none of the slayings had taken place in Houston "in the last year."

4 More Bodies Identified, 2 Indicted in Slayings

FROM PAGE 1



Homicide 8-15-70
RUBEN W. WATSON

Four more victims of a bizarre sex-slaying ring have been identified, and a grand jury has indicted two Houston teen-agers in three of the 27 known killings.

Harris County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk late Tuesday identified two victims as James Eugene Glass, 14, of 1706 Wycliffe, and Danny Michael Yates, 15, of 10951 Hazelhurst, bringing the total identified to nine.

Both youths were strangled, Jachimczyk said, and apparently died about the time they vanished from an evangelical rally Dec. 11, 1970.

Earlier Tuesday, Jachimczyk identified the bodies of Ruben Willford Watson, 17, of 2317 Beall, missing since Aug. 17, 1971, and James S. Dreymla, 14, of 5411 Laurel Creek, missing only since Friday, Aug. 3.

Dreymla had been believed dead after police found his bicycle in a boat shed, at 4550 Silver Bell in southwest Houston, where 17 bodies were unearthed.

His was the first body found.

Remains of all four youths identified Tuesday were found

(See 4 MORE, Page 9)

in the shed, and all had been strangled. Yates, Glass and Watson were identified by dental records and Dreymla by finger prints.

A Harris County grand jury Tuesday indicted Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, of 325 W. 27th, in the July 10 strangling of William Ray Lawrence, 15, and the July 27 deaths of Charles Cary Cobble, 17, and Marty Ray Jones, 18. Cobble was shot to death and Jones strangled.

\$100,000 Bond

David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd., was indicted in Lawrence's death.

Visiting State Dist. Judge Noah Kennedy of Corpus Christi set bond of \$100,000 on each count.

The defendants are believed to have acted under the guidance of Dean Allen Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. electrician.

Henley says he shot and killed Corll in self-defense Aug. 8 after a night of sex and paint-sniffing at Corll's home at 2020 Lamar, Pasadena.

The grand jury heard testimony for more than six hours from Pasadena Police detective David Mullican, Houston homicide detective J. D. Tucker, and a youth believed to be Billy Ridinger, 20, of 5831 Autumn Forest.

A statement made by Brooks described an incident in which Ridinger was held captive, and was about to be killed, at an apartment rented by Corll on Schuler St.

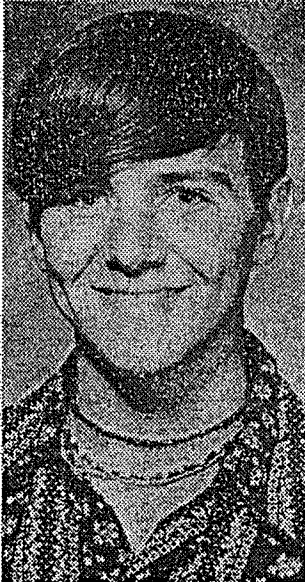
Let Youth Escape

Brooks said he begged Corll and Henley not to kill Ridinger and they let the youth escape.

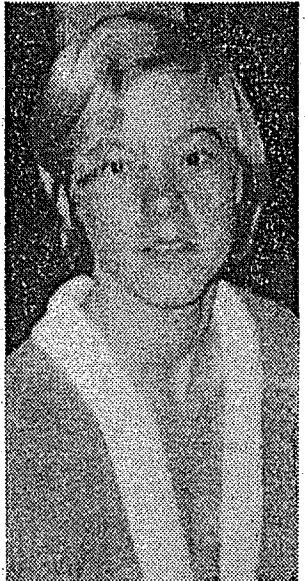
"I believe the only reason he is alive now is that I begged them not to kill him," Brooks said.

The witness believed to have been Ridinger appeared with a paper sack over his head, but Dist. Atty. Carol Vance told newsmen, "I'm sure you guess who the witness is."

Vance said the indictments Tuesday conclude the first phase of grand jury investigation into the multiple murders, but he expects the probe to resume later.



JAMES E. GLASS



JAMES S. DREYMLA

to go back to Dean's. I took him back and Dean ended up killing him," Brooks said.

William H. Glass, James' father, said he went with his son to a service at Evangelistic Temple, 2025 W. 11th, on a night in December, 1970.

About 1000 teen-agers, many with adolescent problems, were there, Glass says.

He says James and Danny Yates wanted to sit down front on the floor, but promised to meet him "out by the car" after the service.

"We never heard from him again," Glass says. He reported his son's disappearance two days later, he says.

James Dreymla left home Friday night, Aug. 3, for a ride on his bike, says a neighbor, Mrs. Roy Haney.

He phoned his father about 9 p.m. to ask if he could spend the night at a party "on the other side of town," she says, but the father, Douglas Dreymla, told him to be home in 20 minutes.

Mrs. Haney says James also phoned two neighbors and a girl friend, known only as "Laura," that night. She says she believes he was invited to an all-night party by someone at a bowling alley near his home.

Ruben Watson's mother says he phoned her at work the day he disappeared, two years ago Friday.

He was going to a movie, he said, but would be home when she arrived from work at 7:30 p.m. He never returned.

His grandmother says Ruben called her that same night to say he would not be in until later. She says she

had given the youth \$2.75 to spend and some dimes for the telephone.

No Reason to Leave

She says Ruben had no reason to leave home — she had bought him a stereo and some new clothes, and he was happy.

In his statement to police, Brooks said the slaying of Ruben Haney (Watson) was "the first killing I remember."

"Dean and I were the only people involved in that one. But Dean did the killing and I was just present when it happened."

Asst. Dist. Atty. Sam Robertson Tuesday ordered Henley taken to Baylor College of Medicine for an examination by Dr. Benjamin Sher, consulting psychiatrist for the county.

But Henley's attorney, Charles Melder of Houston, said he learned of the plan and advised Henley not to talk with Sher.

Meanwhile, officials in San Augustine County say a widely publicized map and other items found in Corll's lake cabin near Broadus may not lend any new angles to the case.

Sheriff John Hoyt had reported that the map might lead officers to more graves in the piney woods near Sam Rayburn Reservoir, where four bodies were found.

The map is now believed to show only the route from the Corll cabin to that of a friend who is neither a victim nor an accomplice, say Robert McCroskey, deputy sheriff.

Welch Defends Police

And a supposed "torture board" found in the cabin was only a piece of asbestos pressed board, similar to those used to cover some of the graves.

Unlike a board found in Corll's Pasadena home, it did not contain holes for handcuffing victims for sexual abuse.

2 indicted in slayings; 4 more victims named

Post 8-15

By PETE WITTENBERG
and ANN JAMES
Post Reporters

As Harris County authorities Tuesday identified the remains of four more youths which had been retrieved from graves earlier, a grand jury returned murder indictments against Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. and David Owen Brooks in connection with the mass slayings of at least 27 boys.

Henley was indicted in the July 27 deaths of Marty Ray Jones, 18, and Charles C. Cobble, 17, and in the July 10 death of William Ray Lawrence, 15. Brooks was also indicted in Lawrence's death.

The indictments said Lawrence and Jones were strangled with a cord and Cobble was shot to death. They said that some other means unknown to the jury were also used to kill the youths.

The bodies of Jones and Cobble were found in a boat

shed at 4500 Silver Bell. Lawrence's body was found buried at Sam Rayburn Reservoir in San Augustine County.

Mayor's reaction/page 3A
Soviet comment/page 19C

The four youths identified Tuesday, raising the total of identified bodies to nine, were:

• James Dreymala, 14, of 5411 Laurel Creek. Dreymala

was apparently the last killed and the first body recovered from the boat shed Aug. 8. He disappeared Aug. 3.

• James Eugene Glass, 15, of 1706 Wycliff Drive. He disappeared after church services in December, 1970.

• Danny Michael Yates, 15, of 10951 Hazelhurst. He was last seen with the Glass boy.

• Ruben Willford Watson,

19, of 2301 Alamo. He disappeared Aug. 17, 1971.

All four of the youths appeared to have died by strangulation, the county medical examiner's office reported.

The five bodies previously identified are those of Jones, Cobble, Lawrence, and two brothers, Donald, 15, and Jerry Waldrop, 13.

All but one of the indictments was based on

Please see 2 youths/page 13

2 youths indicted; 4 bodies identified

From page 1

charges which had previously been filed. The indictment against Henley in connection with Lawrence's death was presented to the grand jury without a charge.

Visiting Dist. Judge Noah Kennedy of Corpus Christi set bond at \$100,000 on each indictment.

Dist. Atty. Carol S. Vance said he expected the grand jury's investigation into the killings would continue as further evidence is gained.

He said he had no plans for granting any immunity to anybody in the case.

The grand jury considered the evidence and listened to testimony for seven hours Tuesday.

The final witness, believed to be a youth who had been in Dean Allen Corll's apartment, was led into the jury room with his head concealed in a paper sack.

Although Vance would not officially identify the witness, it was known that Billy Ridinger, 20, who Brooks said he had begged Corll not to kill, was waiting in the district attorney's office with his fa-



Charles Melder, attorney representing Elmer Wayne Henley, shown before grand jury hearing here.

ther for a grand jury appearance.

Brooks said in a signed statement that he took care of Ridinger while the boy was at Corll's apartment.

Ridinger's father would not permit any interviews and would not comment himself.

Corll, 33, was the Pasadena

bachelor whom Henley told police he shot when Corll threatened him after a paint-sniffing party at Corll's house.

Henley and Brooks led authorities to the bodies of boys they said Corll had killed. Police have said both Henley and Brooks were implicated in the killings.

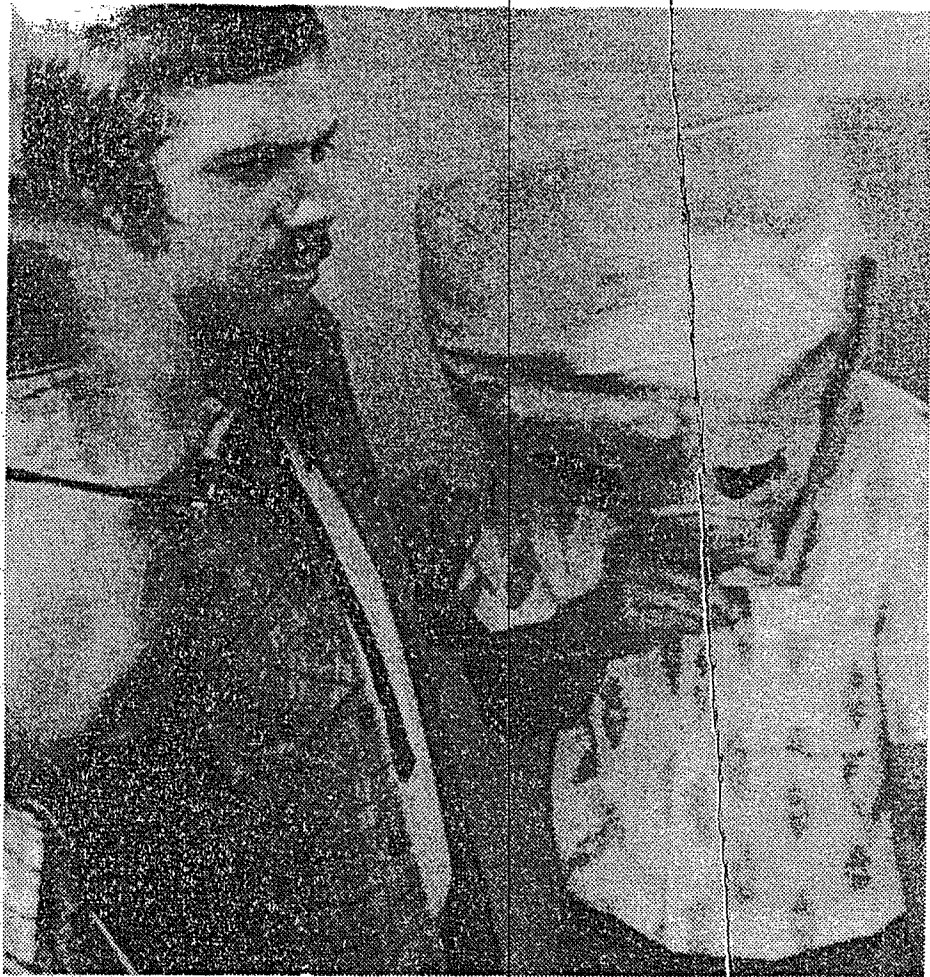
Part of the evidence gathered for the grand jury Tuesday was obtained by subpoenaing San Augustine County Sheriff John Hoyt, who removed the evidence from Harris County Monday, said Assistant Dist. Atty. Mike Hinton.

"We have to preserve a chain of custody," Hinton said in explaining the action of the district attorney's office.

The evidence, he said, included digging tools and surgical gloves, but he claimed no definite knowledge of where they were found.

Hinton said he explained the situation to a local lawyer whom Hoyt had hired to look into the subpoena.

Law enforcement officers also examined a white Ford Econoline Van, said to belong to Corll which was parked in



Witness appears with sack to conceal identity

—Post photo by Jerry Click

the garage of Corll's parents' home.

The van had been released earlier to Corll's parents by Pasadena police.

Police Chief Herman Short

said he and Hoyt believe the boys, whose remains were found at Sam Rayburn, were taken up to the lake and tortured and killed in the van.

Short said reports circulating of another burial ground

at New Waverly were false. A map found in a lake cabin Corll used was determined to be a fishing guide map distributed by Corll's father, said Walker County Sheriff Darrell White.

Teen-aged girl at Corll party meets lawyers

Post 8-16-73

The teen-aged girl who has been in custody since the Aug. 8 slaying of suspected mass murderer Dean Arnold Corll was brought to Houston police homicide late Wednesday to meet with her lawyers.

Richard "Racehorse" Haynes and Mike Ramsey said they had been hired by Ronda Williams' father to represent the girl.

The girl and Timothy Kerley, 20, were reported to have been the next victims of Corll when 17-year-old Wayne Henley shot him five times. The two young people, Henley said, were handcuffed to Corll's torture board and Corll had begun to handcuff him as well when Henley "sweet-talked" him out of it by promising to kill Miss Williams and Kerley.

Haynes said that the girl's father, Ben Williams, came from the Heights. The girl has been cooperative with authorities who have asked her to talk, Haynes said.

After questioning her for about two hours, homicide detectives said no major new leads had been developed at the time.

The girl was held the first day by Pasadena police, then turned over to Harris County juvenile authorities and she has been in detention since.

While Haynes said he was not criticizing any handling of the girl, he said he did want to know "what they want to know and why they want to know it."

Ronda Williams moves in and out of missing persons units being scrutinized to find the identities of the dead boys found buried in a boat storage shed at 4500 Silver Bell, at High Island and at Sam Rayburn Reservoir — 27 to date and digging is now stopped.

She reportedly once dated Frank Aguirre, 19, of 932 Cottage Aguirre disappeared on his way to work at Long John Silver Fish and Chips on the North Side, a place where the girl reportedly once worked. She was listed in Aguirre's missing person report as the last person to see him alive.

Many of the youths already known to be victims and others not yet confirmed lived in the same neighborhood and went to the same schools. Ronda may have met Wayne Henley at her job at a psychedelic shop, "The Third Eye Spirit Shop."

The shop owner, Ron Sourdellia, told The Houston Post the girl worked for him intermittently and Henley often came in and chatted for hours.

The weekend before the killing of Corll and the shocking revelations that followed, Sourdellia said Ronda called him in need of work.

Sourdellia said he went to look for her last Wednesday and she was not at home. He learned of her involvement in the case that night, he said.

Ronda is small, perhaps 5-foot-2 at the most, with a figure mature for her years and an open, childish face framed by long, wavy light brown hair.

She has talked only to police and her family since last Wednesday.

Haynes said she is an innocent victim of the grim affair.



Haynes shields client
Post photo by Joe Deering



FATHER SMELLS ROSE ON SLAIN SON'S BODY
William Ray Lawrence, 15, Buried After Rude Here

Father of 2 Slain Boys Critical Of Police Effort Here

Chron 8-14
BY CRAIG SMYSER
Chronicle Staff

The father of two youths whose bodies were unearched from a boat shed here says police were told about the burial ground two years ago, but officers deny such knowledge.

The father, Everett Waldrop, said he went to Houston police in 1971 to report his sons, Donald, 15, and Jerry, 13, were missing.

During the search for his sons, he said, police heard rumors that bodies were buried in the boat shed and "poked around" the shed complex but found nothing.

However, a juvenile department officer who worked on the Waldrop case said he first heard of the rumors from a reporter five days ago.

He said his and other officers' work earlier uncovered no hints of the burial ground that hid 17 bodies.

Waldrop said his sons disappeared in January, 1971, after they went to visit a friend only six blocks from their Heights home. The Waldrops have since moved to Atlanta, Ga.

"I went to the police the very next morning," Waldrop said. "I camped on that police department door for eight months. I was there about as much as the chief was."

"But all they did was say, 'Why are you down here? You know your boys are runaways. They treated me like I was some kind of idiot.'"

Cites Records

The officer who worked on the Waldrop case said records show that Waldrop reported his sons missing Feb. 8, 1971, which was 10 days after the boys left to visit the friend.

He said Waldrop called the juvenile department about his sons' case only twice during the investigation, the last time Aug. 7, 1971.

Waldrop said he thinks Dean Allen Corll, 33, the suspected leader of the multiple-murder ring who's now dead, offered his boys a ride home.

Willing for Lift

"Those boys never knew a stranger," he said. "If someone stopped to give them a lift, they'd take it."

Police Chief Herman Short, meanwhile, said Monday the department had done all it could to locate runaways under present Texas law.

A juvenile breaks no law, Short said, when he runs away and the police cannot detain him or prevent him running away from home again.

Some Critical

Waldrop and some other

parents say police had not done all they could to find their sons.

They said police should have seen a pattern when so many youths ran away in the Heights neighborhood.

Short said police saw no pattern.

He noted that the disappearances occurred over a period of years.

"I see nothing to indicate we should have done anything more than we did," Short said.

Present police policy classifies missing juveniles as either missing or runaway.

Reclassification

A juvenile is listed as missing if he fails to return from a specific errand. He is reclassified as a runaway if he is sighted later by neighbors or if last seen with a known runaway.

The Waldrop boys were listed as missing.

Waldrop, a construction worker, was employed by an apartment project only yards from Corll's apartment when his boys disappeared.

"What bugs me is maybe he had them in the apartment when I went to work," Waldrop said. "While I was telling my boss about the kids, maybe they were being tortured right next door and I didn't know it."

He said he knew of no punishment fit for "an animal" like those who killed his sons.

"I don't expect justice," Waldrop said. "There's just no justice in Houston."

Short blamed the criticism of his department's handling of runaways on the media.

He called the criticism a "disgusting attempt at scapegoating (that) compounds an already tragic incident."

Short said the comment was aimed at national television networks, which, he said, went "pretty far out" in criticizing his department's handling of runaway and missing person cases.

Talked to Families

He said the press insinuated to families of the victims that the department could have done more to find the runaway youths.

Some Heights area residents, afraid that other sex deviates may be operating in the neighborhood, circulated a petition Monday asking City Council to impose a curfew on juveniles.

The curfew would require children under 16 to be off the street by 10 p.m. on school nights and after midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

The group favors a curfew for the Heights area, but feels that it would have to be city-wide.

Dean Corll

The Friendly, Smiling Candy Man of the Heights

BY ED DESWYSEN
Chronicle Staff
© 1973, Houston Chronicle

Dean Allen Corll was born at the happiest of times, on Christmas Eve, 1939, in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The war building up in Europe then seemed so far away for the baby's parents.

Arnold Corll, a mechanic at a factory, and his wife, Mary, both 23, apparently were delighted with their first child: A healthy, normal boy to all appearances.

"But his parents never were happy," says a relative who doesn't want her name used. "They fought and fussed before they got married, and they fought and fussed right up to the end."

Only the sketchiest of details can be found about Dean Allen Corll's boyhood.

Those closest to him are guarded in their speech now

that the horror of unnatural sex, torture and murder have linked his name to 27 slayings.

The family remained in Fort Wayne until the end of World War II, then their names disappear from the phone book, the city directory and the courthouse records.

One source in Fort Wayne believes Arnold and Mary Corll ended their marriage about that time, although there's no record there to show it.

"I don't believe in divorce," the relative said, commenting on the breakup. "When people marry and have children, they ought to give up their own lives."

An old-time friend of Arnold Corll in Fort Wayne believes he packed off to "some kind of farming operation in the South."

Mary Corll apparently



DEAN ALLEN CORLL

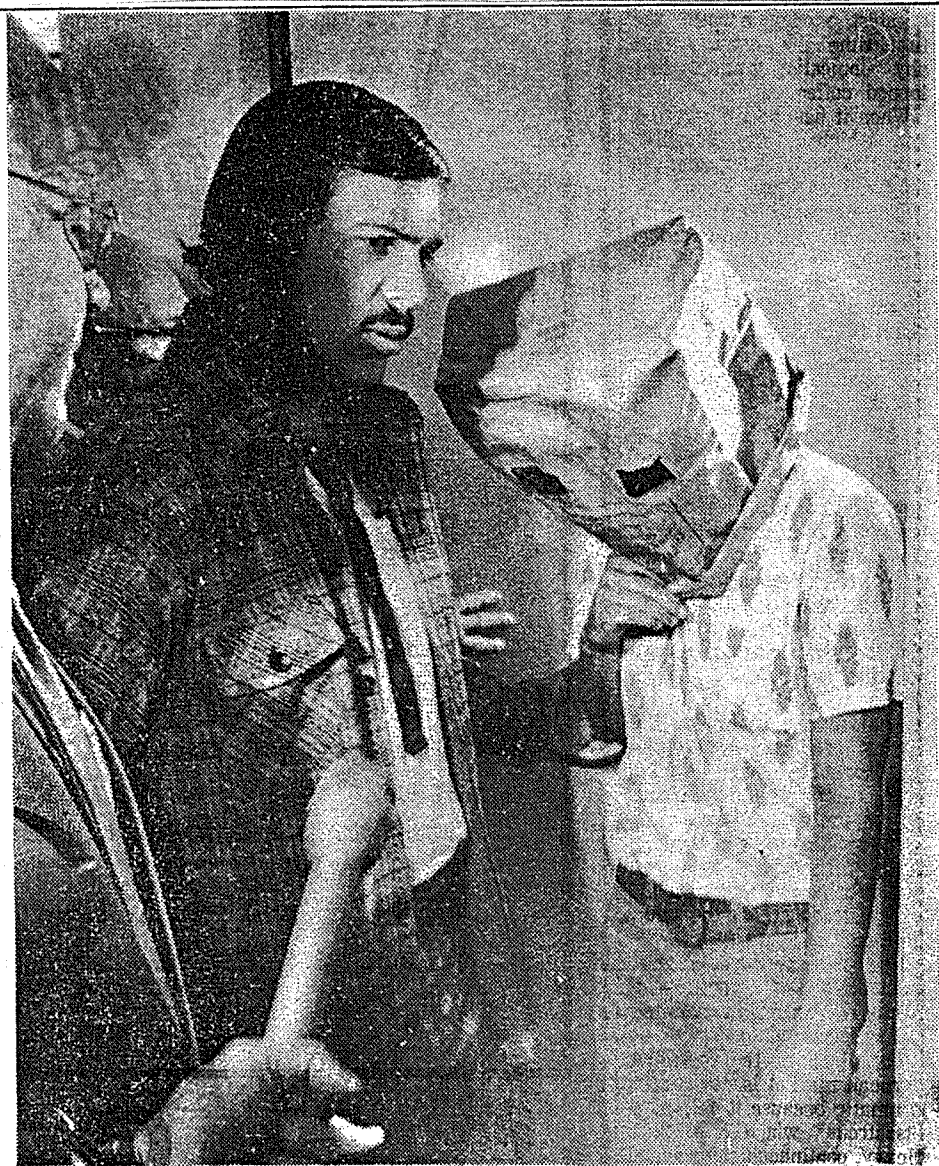


Photo by Curtis McGee, Chronicle Staff

BILLY RIDINGER LEAVES GRAND JURY ROOM
Escorted by District Attorney Investigator Gregg Walls

remarried because she shows up next with a new name, Mary West. She had custody of her two boys from the first marriage, Dean, and his younger brother, Stanley. And she had a daughter, Joyce West, by her second husband.

"Dean was a good boy," the relative says. "But the good ones are so often used by the damnable ones."

The relative says Dean was brought up in the Methodist Church, but he usually limited his churchgoing to special days like Christmas and Easter.

"Why, I never even saw him with a cigaret," she says. "And I never heard him curse."

People thought of him as "good ole Dean," she recalls, he was almost too good, tried to do favors for people, always tried to make the best of every situation."

Where Dean Allen Corll lived from the time he left Fort Wayne until he moved with his mother to Vidor, near Beaumont, in 1954, is not known.

Dean, by then a youngster of 14, enrolled as a freshman at Vidor High School.

Teachers describe him as an average student, punctual, neatly dressed, quiet, never a disciplinary problem.

He failed English in his senior year, postponing his graduation until the end of



DEAN ALLEN CORLL
In High School Days

summer school in 1958.

"High school was sort of a struggle for him," the relative says. "He had to work, helping out his mother, and he had odd jobs here and there."

He played trombone in the high school stage band, about the only outside activity he found time for, says a former classmate and fellow musician, who also asked for anonymity.

She recalled that Dean was "a very good musician" and a "nice guy." He dated two girls that she knew of, and there was no suspicion of homosexual tendencies.

"Vidor was so strict in those days I don't think we even knew what a homosexual was," she says.

"All the acceptable behavior was motivated by the Baptist

church, and you didn't even smoke in Vidor."

A former band instructor remembers Dean only after thumbing through an old yearbook to find his picture.

"He was there in the band, but when you've got a big band, some students just don't stand out in your mind unless they are outstanding musicians or unless they are discipline problems," he says. "Dean Corll was neither."

Dean had a "best friend" in high school who still can't believe all they're saying about his old buddy.

"Let me put it this way," he says. "If Dean Corll had knocked on my door last Wednesday night before this story broke, I would have invited him in for a beer."

Dean was normal, he says. "He liked girls just as much as the rest of us," he says, recalling they frequently attended drive-in movies together where they spent most of their time trying to make out with the girls.

He recalls that Dean seemed to be better off financially than most of his classmates. He owned a car.

The boys went camping together on several occasions. "Dean was a good outdoorsman," his friend says. "Sometimes, we'd drive down near the Trinity River and pick up pecans."

His mother, Mrs. West, doing her best to keep her children together in Vidor, operated a candy store there and made pralines which were sold to drug stores and restaurants.

Dean made up the prunes with the pecans we picked up at the river," his friend says.

He remained active in the family's growing candy business after his graduation from high school.

But there was an interruption of two years when he went back to Indiana to care for his recently widowed grandmother. That was in 1960.

"He knew she'd be alone and would need someone to take her to church and places," a relative says. "He got a job up there, stayed with his grandmother for two years, but he always managed to send a little money to his mother down here."

Dean Corll returned home in 1962. His family had moved to Houston.

He lived with his mother, younger brother Stanley and half-sister Joyce in a house they rented at 721 E. 6½ Ave. in the Heights area.

Using the kitchen as their factory, they established the Corll Candy Co. Mrs. West was president, Dean vice-president and Stanley secretary-treasurer. Joyce helped with the chores.

Dean was 24 years old when he was drafted by the U.S. Army.

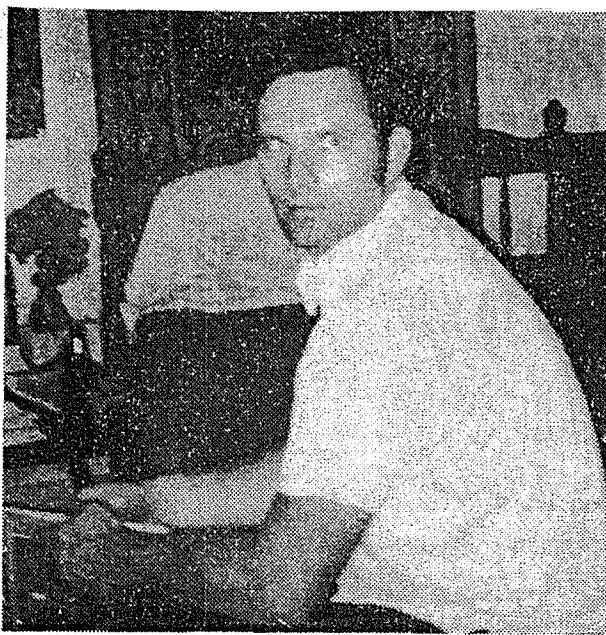
Radio Repairman

He entered the Army at a reception center in Houston on Aug. 10, 1964, and was assigned to Ft. Polk, La., for basic training. From there, he went to Ft. Benning, Ga., where he attended the Army's radio repair school.

He received a permanent assignment as a radio repairman at Ft. Hood, near Killeen, Texas.

He had an exemplary record. "Nothing derogatory," an Army spokesman said. "No time lost."

Dean applied for a hardship



DEAN ALLEN CORLL
Recent Photo of Suspected Torture Slayer

discharge soon after he arrived at Ft. Hood. He asked to be released in order to help his family.

The Army released him at Ft. Hood on June 11, 1965, with an honorable discharge, just 10 months after he entered service.

Dean Corll returned to his family and the candy business.

Shortly, the Corll Candy Co. moved to larger quarters at 505 W. 22nd Ave., directly across the street from Helms Elementary School in the Heights.

Mrs. West, still president of the company, took her own apartment at 1845 Airport Blvd.

Dean, who became general manager as well as vice-president, rented an apartment at 444 W. 21st Ave., just a block away from the business.

Mrs. Fred Hilligiest, who

lives at 402 W. 27th, recalls hearing about the candy factory from her children who attended the elementary school.

"My son, David, would come home all excited, saying the man was giving away candy to the children," she says. "It was the talk of the neighborhood."

But Mrs. Hilligiest says she had a funny feeling about it.

"Then I heard that this man was inviting the children to a back room where he kept a pool table," she says. "I could understand the free candy, maybe, but this other sounded a little peculiar to me."

She says she forbade her son to visit the candy man.

"I'll never know whether he went back or not," Mrs. Hilligiest says.

Her son, David, 13, disappeared two years ago. The youngster is presumed by authorities to be among the Corll-related victims.

Now, back to Dean Allen Corll, the pleasant, smiling candy man of the Heights.

He stood 5 feet, 11 inches, weighed 190 pounds, mostly muscle. He had closely cropped brown hair, lively brown eyes.

Although his parents were divorced long ago, Dean kept in contact with his father, who settled in Houston about the time the rest of the family was living in Vidor.

Arnold Corll, who had

remarried, owned a house at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena. He worked as an electrician at Baylor College of Medicine.

Relatives recall that Dean visited his father two to three times a week, keeping him posted on the activities of the family and business.

About 1968, the Corll Candy Co. was dissolved.

Mrs. West and her daughter, Joyce, moved to Colorado. Their address there is unknown.

Stanley took a job as a machine operator in Bellaire.

Dean decided to learn a trade.

He enrolled in an electrician's training program offered by Houston Lighting & Power Co.

And he grew restless. He was to move at least 10 times in the next five years, from a one-room efficiency to a townhouse, from a garden apartment to a bungalow in Pasadena.

In 1969, he struck up a friendship with a 14-year-old boy named David Owen Brooks, the son of a paving contractor in the Heights section of northwest Houston.

Brooks said they formed a homosexual alliance, with Corll paying him for his part in acts of sodomy. They shared several apartments from time to time.

Brooks said he was horrified during a visit to Corll's apartment at 3300 Yorktown about three years ago.

Brooks said he walked into the living room, unannounced, and found Corll molesting two boys bound to a 3x8 foot board. Corll and the boys were naked.

Brooks said that Corll later told him he killed both boys.

At least 25 more victims were to die, perhaps the same way, in the next three years.

Brooks says he helped bury many of the victims, but he denies taking part in killing them.

About 18 months ago, Elmer Wayne Henley, a junior high school dropout from the Heights, joined Corll and Brooks in the macabre venture which would rank as the most massive murder spree in modern U.S. history.

They left tell-tale signs but no one apparently suspected them until it was too late.

A former apartment man-

ager at Westcott Towers, 904 Westcott, said a maintenance man discovered three or four bullet holes in the door to the apartment shared by Corll and Brooks.

The door was replaced without question.

When Corll and Brooks moved out a month or so later, the manager said a slab of steel was discovered nailed to the inside of a new door.

The alliance began to crack two months ago.

Brooks moved out on Corll. Now 18, he married a girl named Bridget Clark, now pregnant, several months ago.

And Henley says he couldn't take it much longer. Dean had a blood lust, he says.

At the same time, Corll's father moved to a new house in Houston. Now that his son did not have a roommate to share expenses, he offered him the use of the house at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena.

Early in the morning of Aug. 8, inside the white frame bungalow on Lamar, the first inkling of the horror broke.

The world listened in disbelief as the tale unfolded.

There were three witnesses, Henley, another young man of 20 and a 15-year-old girl.

Henley said Corll was going mad. "He said he was going to kill us all, but first he was going to have his fun," he said.

Corll had tied up the two youths and the girl while they were in a stupor from inhaling paint fumes.

"I sweet-talked him," Henley says. "I promised I'd torture and kill them for him if he'd let me go. So he did."

Then Henley pumped five bullets into Corll's chest.

Dean Corll went to his grave two days later.

He received a Christian burial.

And an American flag draped his coffin, a reminder of his service to his country.

The Rev. Robert D. Joiner, pastor of Sunset United Methodist Church in Pasadena, spoke.

"We must now deliver this man unto God's judgment and also His mercy and grace," he said.

"The greatest heroism is just going on and remembering that Christ came to the world to love those whom others despised."

Teachers Describe Corll As Neat, Punctual, Quiet

FROM PAGE 1



DEAN ALLEN CORLL, HEAD CIRCLED, WITH TROMBONE IN VIDOR HIGH SCHOOL STAGE BAND
Classmate Recalls He Was 'A Very Good Musician' and 'A Nice Guy'

Scene At High Island 'Unbelievable' - -

Sun Writer Follows Trail Of Mass Deaths

By JIM KYLE

HIGH ISLAND (Sp) — On a return trip from Montgomery, Ala., to Galveston, I was mighty glad to see the Highway 124 cutoff at Winnie, where I was only 50 miles from the end of my trip. Fifteen miles from Winnie is High Island — ordinarily a deserted hamlet that must be passed before reaching the beach. It was noon Friday. Just inside the city limits, I saw a small, frame building with "Dot's Cafe" printed on the front and a helicopter

standing to the left. Cars lined both sides of the highway and 10 or 15 lawmen were milling about. My newsman instincts surfaced, so I stopped and asked a bystander what was happening. "A Texas Ranger has that Henley boy in Dot's Cafe, and the kid's telling him where some more bodies are buried." The answer sent me inside the building, where I sat at the counter and ordered coffee. And listened. Elmer Wayne Henley, one of

two persons charged with murder in the mass slayings of at least 23 Houston area youths, sat about 12 feet away, seeming as normal as anyone else in the cafe. He was telling a Ranger of the beach gravesites that, he said, contained five or six bodies. But he seemed confused about whether all bodies were in High Island or if some were elsewhere. Wondering what the officers planned to do next, I went outside with about 50 to 75 people who were standing around. No

one was talking. But one man, me, did say that a bulldozer and ditch-digger were being transported to the burial site a couple of miles away. At this point, I felt I should call The Baytown Sun and tell Managing Editor Jim Finley what I had stumbled onto. A half mile down the road, I spotted a telephone under a small, neat metal. Jim's first question was, "Do you have a camera?" I told him I didn't.

"Well, beg, borrow or steal one, but whatever it takes, get one! Go with them and get the story." Heading back to the car, I saw a tall man in western clothes who had to be a Texas Ranger. He was looking in the direction of Dot's Cafe. I asked if he knew where the officers were going to search. "That's what I'm waiting for. We're holding David Brooks in this motel." I wouldn't believe it. Some- where inside that building was an accused accomplice to what

was shaping up as the worst mass murder in the nation's history. A couple of minutes later, a four-door sedan pulled up and stopped at the Ranger's knees. In the same instant, a handcuffed, untalkative Brooks was escorted from the motel to the car. A pistol-holstered guard followed. I explained to the Ranger that I was a newspaperman caught without a camera, but I did have my Department of Public Safety identification. (See DEATH, Page 2)

TRAIL OF DEATH - -

(Continued From Page 1)

He offered to let me join the caravan of newsmen and law officers going to the scene. I did so.

Our group of 25 to 30 cars went down Highway 124, about one mile, turned left toward Port Arthur on Highway 87 and traveled about another mile. It became obvious that either Henley or Brooks told them to stop.

Parking on the highway, we left our cars to walk down a small sand road that led to the beach. The two young suspects led the march.

Our group of newsmen was told to stop, and Henley, Brooks and three or four officers walked on for about 75 yards. They stopped as the two youths appeared to be concentrating momentarily.

Then they pointed to a spot in the sand and two of the officers carrying shovels began digging.

A few shovelful of dirt later, four or five Galveston County jail prisoners were put on the shovels to continue the search. Newsmen were allowed at the scene.

In the meantime, I had secured a camera through the graciousness of a Galveston Daily News reporter and was ready for whatever was found.

In the shallow hole, I could see part of a thick plastic bag with lime around it. Prisoners prodded the bag out with their shovels and a lawman cut it open.

He found human bones. The only sound above the roaring of the waves was that of a woman standing in a group of spectators away from us sobbing.

Another 75 yards away, in an exact straight line from us, still horizontal to the water, Henley and Brooks were pointing out another grave site and the same two officers began digging again. Prisoners were again put on the shovels, but this time there was no plastic bag — only what appeared to be a head of human hair.

Like a scene in a nightmare that repeats itself over and over again, Henley, Brooks and the officers for a third time walked another 75 yards away, stopped, pointed and officers began digging.

When prisoners were again given the shovels, I knew I couldn't look into anymore makeshift graves for fear of seeing what they might contain. I wasn't alone. A number of other newsmen were shying away from the graves, too.

I decided, instead to follow the two accused murderers and the lawmen to another spot directly beneath the front bumper of a camping trailer belonging to a Beaumont preacher, his wife and their 12 or 13-year-old son.

Just before officers had the family move their campsite so digging could begin, the wife told me this was the most peaceful place they had ever camped.

However, no bodies were unearthed here, although the ditchdigging equipment was used to dig trenches through the surrounding sandy area. It was unbelievable. I left.

3 more slaying victims identified

Post 8-16-73

Twelve of the known victims of a sex-slaying ring had been identified Wednesday, of the 27 found buried at Sam Reyburn Reservoir, High Island and 4500 Silver Bell in Houston.

They are Wally Jay Simoneaux, 14, son of Mrs. Mildred Simoneaux of 3405 N. Shepherd; Jeffrey Allen Ko-

nen, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Konen of 3118 Underwood, and Raymond Stanley Blackburn, 20, of Baton Rouge. All were strangled.

The Simoneaux boy lived at 1213 W. 24th when he went off to Hamilton Junior High School last Oct. 3 and never came home.

His missing persons report says boys told his mother he hitchhiked to Opelousas, La., to see his father, then says he might be staying at an old house at 1434 W. 21st.

His body was found in the boat shed at 4500 Silver Bell.

The Blackburn youth had started hitchhiking to Baton

Rouge to see his 19-year-old wife, Myrtle and newborn son, Raymond Scott Blackburn, on June 15. He had stayed here at a trailer park at 1504 W. 34th. His body was found at the lake cabin.

Jeff Konen vanished sometime in September of 1970. His body was on High Island.

No local link found to homosexual ring

Post 8-16-73

By TOM KENNEDY
Post Reporter

Police said Wednesday they thus far have found no connection between the homosexual slayings of 27 teenagers and a nationwide homosexual procurement ring headquartered in Dallas.

The mail-order ring, which involved "fellows" who were available to "sponsors" for homosexual activities anywhere in the nation, was broken up late Tuesday by Dallas police in a northside apartment.

Dallas Assistant Police Chief Donald Steele said a young man who was supposed to report to his sponsor in Houston got scared after hearing of the mass murders involving a homosexual procurement ring.

Six persons were arrested. By Wednesday only the alleged leader, identified as John Paul Norman, was charged with possession of marijuana, Dallas police said. Steele said, "Our original leads linking Houston to Dallas were nebulous and after talking with my officers down there (Houston) they are even more nebulous."

Harris County Assistant Dist. Atty. Mike Hinton said two Dallas detectives spent Thursday checking out Houston angles looking for a possible connection with the Dallas ring.

Hinton said the two detectives questioned David Brooks, indicted with Wayne Henley in the deaths of three of the 27 known killings, about the Dallas-based ring known as Epic International and The Odyssey Foundation.

"Brooks was not tied to any Dallas activity," Hinton said. "I will not comment further on the matter," he said when asked if Henley or Dean Corll, the principal figure in the mass homosexual slayings shot and killed by Henley Aug. 8, had been implicated.

"Obviously this part of the investigation has turned up nothing earth-shattering at this time," the assistant district attorney said.

Norman, also known as John David Norman, has a Houston police record from 1954 and 1956 involving molesting a minor and performing sodomy on a 14-year-old boy.

Norman was sentenced to 15 months in Terminal Island Federal Correctional Institute at Long Beach, Calif., on

Nov. 24, 1969, for mailing obscene articles and other articles through the mail. On Aug. 14, 1971, he was transferred to another federal penitentiary in the State of Washington.

He was released from custody by Dallas police on \$7,000 bond.

Steele gave the following details of how the procurement ring worked:

Homosexuals wanting young sex partners would write to a Post Office box in San Diego, Calif., or to a Dallas address for pamphlets picturing some "fellows" and information about them including their first name, hobbies, likes and dislikes and other background information.

If a man wanted to sponsor a "fellow" he would write back informing the ring leaders who he was interested in. He would then send enough money to cover the plane fare of the fellow.

The sponsor would agree to keep the fellow for a given amount of time and to pay his fare back home. The fellow could make from \$15 to \$40 per day, depending on what kind of deal was arranged.

Indignation in wake of killings

Post 8-16-73

What really boggles the mind is that all these years this horror was going on right next door to **SOMEBODY** but **NOBODY** has heard anything, seen anything, or even questioned the fact that so many young boys were going **IN** and none coming out.

Mrs. Teddie Johnson

7010 Raton

IT IS A MYSTERY to me how something as common as a house of prostitution can demand such immediate attention that the governor of Texas must be sought in order to hasten its closure. However, the recent brutal and sadistic mass murders of young boys has yet to cause him to publicly voice his opinion of this revolting situation. It is indeed tragic that the sickness centering around murderous and perverted sexual behavior is allowed to go unchecked while those people seeking harmless and innocent sex are unfairly denied this privilege. It leaves them one choice, and the results could prove to be disastrous to many.

Mrs. Lesli Lapham

10626 Jones Road

I WAS UTTERLY SHOCKED when I opened my Sunday, Aug. 12 . . . Houston Post to find the picture of the grieving mother over her son's casket. The writeup describing her grief and the picture, I feel, were in **POOR** taste. Don't you agree that "one's grief" is a private and personal affair and should not be displayed on the front page of any paper? **I PROTEST!**

Becky Cash

P.O. Box 26443

A GRIEF-STRICKEN mother saying a final good-bye to her child has a right to express herself in any way she chooses without having a photographer record her grief and splash it all over the front page of a newspaper . . .

This lady deserves a public apology . . . Let's see that on the front page.

Mrs. A. P. Kirkpatrick

2105 Hickory, Pasadena

. . . **I SUBMIT** that the Post (Aug. 11) and the news media in general displayed a lapse of judgment in printing the confession of an accused person. The Houston Police Department must also be held partly responsible for the release of the confession to the press. However, the press should have shown some restraint in a matter that may seriously impair David Brooks' sixth amendment right to a fair and impartial trial . . .

Charles P. Anderson

Box 318, Baylor College of Medicine

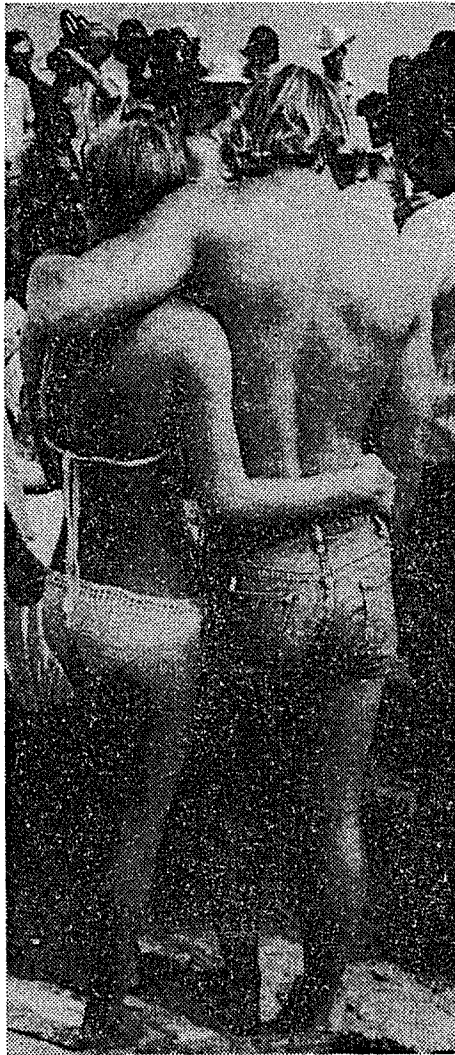
. . . **THE PRINTING** of the Brooks statement was totally irresponsible, will foil justice for the slain, justice for the accused, justice for your neighbor, my neighbor, justice for Texas, and influence justice for the nation as a whole.

A public apology would shock me. I fully expect some asinine statement from Sound-Off in justification of journalistic freedom.

Don Ferguson

12803 Boreas St.

RECENTLY, some of the unfortunate parents of victims in the mass murders were attacking the Police Department for lack of service in finding their children. It is a very sad event but our Police Department certainly should not be so blamed. May the parents find some consolation, but not in putting blame where it should not be. In such unwonted acts we must teach our youth not to associate with such animals as the only means to avoid such insanity. The victims were of such an age that parental discipline would have been the only defense. Our Police Department has so many things to do now that such services as de-



Watching the body hunt

manded by the parents would be impossible . . .

Carl T. Guichard

2408 Yorktown

MY CHILD, your child, doesn't come home from swimming, a job, after an argument. The police will do the **COURTESY** of taking a missing persons report. They depend upon their intuition whether to investigate.

If a scream of horror and fear can be sent through a newspaper — hear it!

Jean Edwards

5925 Ariel

THINGS are not always what they seem to be, **BUT** the **CHILD** seen in the front page picture of "Digging for victims . . ." (Post Aug. 10) is without a doubt in the wrong place at the wrong time. Why? Why?

L. T. Stegall

5033 Oak Court, Dickinson

SO President Nixon's commission has spent two years and thousands of dollars to decide that we should legalize pornography, homosexuality, prostitution, marijuana and confiscate our hand guns. Now, let them come down and dig for a few bodies.

Lee Berryman

1118 Crawford St.

I HAVE BEEN reading about the mass murders around Houston. But I do not believe that Elmer Wayne Henley is insane as his lawyer . . . said. If this is true then is also President Nixon insane for sending all these boys over to other countries to kill and be killed, and let things run wild in his own country? I think he . . . also needs help, such as medical and psychiatric.

Erwin Luedecke

Route 2, Box 5, Yoakum

'My God, that's Ray,' victim's father weeps

Post 8-16-73

By ANN JAMES

Post Reporter

"Oh, my God," wept the big, florid-faced preacher from Baton Rouge, "That's Ray, that's him. Oh, my God."

The Rev. Robert R. Blackburn of Baton Rouge, La., had just been shown a torn off photo of his son, Raymond Stanley Blackburn, 20, that had been ripped off an expired driver's license.

The tiny picture was found at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena, the home of Dean Arnold Corll, 33, who was shot to death last Wednesday by Elmer Wayne Henley, 17.

Henley, and later David Brooks, 18, led police to grave sites at a boat storage area at 4500 Silver Bell, near Sam Rayburn Reservoir and at High Island that have yielded 27 bodies of sex-victimized and murdered boys.

Brook's statement had told of a boy from Baton Rouge being killed, along with "Blondie" from South Houston. The grieving father said homicide detectives told him that one of the youths charged with murder had recognized a picture of young Blackburn, and confirmed that he was one of the later victims of the torture-slaying ring.

Ray Blackburn has a two months-old baby he had never seen. He started hitchhiking home June 15 to see the baby born June 12. He was never seen again. Rev. Blackburn has been to Houston once to inquire about his son, who had been staying here with a brother at a trailer park at 1504 W. 34th St. while working as a tile layer. His son could not find work in Baton Rouge, the preacher said.

Police here found that a letter and paycheck reached Blackburn's wife, Myrtle, who lives now in Meridian, Miss., and the postmark was June 19.

The Pentacostal minister said, "This is going to kill his brother, because he wouldn't take him to Baton Rouge. I wasn't hard on him like the other two boys. He was the baby boy. Oh, my God, this is going to kill his mother."

The big man swung about the homicide office in his torment, then he drew himself inward and agreed to go to the Harris County morgue and look at his son's teeth.

Ray had no dental records, but did have a big hole in one molar. "I'll have to look. I want to know that it's my boy we're bringing home."

A short time later Blackburn identified his son at the morgue.

Woman Says Heights Area Well Patrolled

Chron. 8-17

Mrs. Wanda Brinkley, a PTA leader in the Heights, said there is heavy police patrolling in a Heights neighborhood and that she found no fault with police investigation in the multiple slayings.

Mrs. Brinkley 315 E. 26th, said Thursday she wanted to clarify her statement that appeared in Wednesday's Chronicle, saying it was misinterpreted.

She was quoted as saying, "If the police really came out in this neighborhood and looked, they could turn up a lot more than you think."

Mrs. Brinkley said today, "We've got police patrolling this area all the time. I'd say this is one of the heaviest patrolled areas."

Most of the nine slaying victims identified so far were boys who lived in a Heights neighborhood bordering Yale, between 20th St. and North Loop. Some parents have criticized police for not spotting the trend of missing youths.

Meanwhile, Heights parents concerned about their children's safety will hold a community meeting tonight at 7 in the W. 14th Avenue Baptist Church, 1111 W. 14th.

W.L. Mayhew, a spokesman, said the purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways residents can "keep their children off the streets."

Mayhew said Mayor Louie Welch, city councilmen and Police Chief Herman B. Short were invited.

Why Didn't the Neighbors Ever Call the Police?

Chron. BY JACK MATTHEWS
8-17
Chronicle Staff

During the past three years, 27 young boys were either shot to death or strangled at perhaps various addresses in the Houston area.

Dean Arnold Corll, 33, one of the reputed multiple killers, lived over the past five years at 10 different addresses in this area.

Sharing his home or apartment at various times were David Owen Brooks, 18, and Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, recently indicted on charges of murder in several of the sex-torture slayings.

The question that surely nags police is why no one ever reported a shot or a cry in the night during that three years. Corll, reputedly the major suspect, is dead, Henley, his one-time roommate, says he shot and killed Corll in self defense last week.

Neighbors and landlords of Corll during the last months of his life say they know of no unusual incidents which might have led to suspicion of the horror that was to unfold.

Eugene Swander, 2018 Lamar, who lives next door to Corll's Pasadena home, at 2020 Lamar said he was asleep the morning police came to investigate the shooting death last Wednesday.

Swander said he had seen nothing suspicious in the days before but had noticed Corll working with his white Ford van "almost daily" in the driveway of his home.

"He usually had the side doors of his van open when it was parked there," Swander said, "as if he were loading or unloading something. His garage doors were open also."

Swander said he saw David Brooks, who he identified from recent newspaper pictures, visiting the Corll home on two occasions and was alone.

Swander said if a .22-caliber pistol was used in some of the slayings, it is possible he didn't hear anything because his air conditioner muffled the sound of the shots.

In a statement to police, Brooks says that two boys were shot and killed at the Corll home in Pasadena. He did not say when.

Clifton A. Boehm, 2025 Lamar, another neighbor, said his first knowledge of anything wrong at the Corll home was when police came to investigate Corll's death.

"People inside their houses really can't hear anything going on in another house," Boehm said. "If they were outside when it happened, they might hear something."

The wife of a Pasadena police patrolman, Mrs. Richard D. Romano, 2023 Lamar, said she and her husband were asleep the day Corll was killed.

"We didn't hear shots or anything coming from his home at any time," she said. She said other neighbors had never come to their home to tell of anything suspicious happening at 2020 Lamar.

The manager of Princessa Apartments, at 1855 Wirt, Mrs. Helen Phillips, said Corll was a model tenant with good references when he lived there from Jan. 20, 1973, until March 7, 1973.

Mrs. Phillips said Brooks was listed as Corll's roommate but they left unexpectedly.

Brooks told police one teen-ager procured by him for Corll was taken to these apartments, but Brooks said he left and did not witness any killing.

Mrs. Phillips said Corll was clean, well-dressed and "as good a tenant as we have ever had."

Mrs. Laverne Mitchell, former manager of Westcott Tower Apartments, 904 Westcott, where Corll lived from June 26, 1972, until Nov. 6, 1972, reiterated Mrs. Phillips' description of Corll as a good tenant.

Brooks says he believes two boys were slain at the Westcott apartments.

Corll had a one-bedroom apartment at Westcott and stayed there about five months. He then transferred to a two-bedroom apartment at Westcott Tower Apartments but stayed only a few days before leaving. Brooks is listed as his roommate at both these apartments.

Mrs. Mitchell said she first saw Brooks when he came to the office of the apartments with two young men about Brooks' age.

She said Brooks told her he wanted to be let into Corll's apartment because he had misplaced his key.

Mrs. Mitchell said she did not want to let Brooks into the apartment. "Because he didn't seem to be the type of boy that Corll would be running around with." She said Brooks and the other two boys had long hair and an unkempt appearance that was in sharp contrast with Corll's neat appearance.

She said she called Corll and recalls he said it was perfectly all right to let them in because Brooks was his roommate.

Mrs. Mitchell then sent a security guard around to Corll's apartment and he admitted Brooks and the other two boys.

Mrs. Mitchell said she never saw the other two again. She said she does not recall seeing any other young men visit Corll at his apartment on Westcott.

Corll left his apartment before expiration of his six-month lease, she said, forfeiting a \$50 deposit. She said she does not recall why he moved.

In the Westcott Tower Apartments, Mrs. Mitchell said tenants are restricted to single adults and childless couples. In units across the street owned by the same firm, she said couples with children are allowed.

Mrs. Mitchell said she heard of no cases of children being bothered by men at the apartments while she worked there.

She left her manager's job at the apartments last December. "I was very surprised when the news of the killings came out," she said.

A maintenance man reportedly discovered three or four bullet holes in the door of the apartment shared by Corll and Brooks but the door was replaced without question. Mrs. Mitchell said she had no knowledge of the bullet holes.

Also during the same time Corll lived at the apartments on Westcott, he reportedly rented an apartment at 6363 San Felipe, where Brooks says a boy named Ruben Haney Watson was killed.

The apartment manager said Corll checked into an apartment there on July 15, 1972, and stayed six weeks, checking out without notice and not paying any rent. The manager said Corll did not sign a lease for the apartment but was named on an application with Brooks as his roommate.

More than a year ago, Corll was reportedly living in a house at Schuler and Washington but neighbors there say they do not remember him. Brooks said two teen-agers were killed there.

About this time, Corll was reported to have lived at 915 Columbia, in the Heights. Mrs. Becky Keen, manager of Britton Arms Apartments, 425 E. 9th St., which has one side facing the Columbia address, said she never met Corll but that people had told her he lived there.

Brooks says that one boy was killed by Corll at the Columbia address.

Mrs. Keen recalls one incident when loud music was played continually late into the night. She said some black and white people were socializing at the house and "immoral conduct" was taking place on the front steps of the house. Mrs. Keen would not elaborate on what she meant by "immoral conduct."

She said people at her apartments called such events at the house "the Saturday night show" and the smell of marijuana was often in the air.

Brooks says Place One Apartments, 3200 Mangum, was the site of two strangulations by Corll while the victims' father worked next door. The apartments manager, who would not give her name, said she has managed the apartments for 2½ years and Corll had never lived there.

Brooks says Corll killed two boys at an apartments at 3300 Yorktown but the manager denies ever renting an apartment to a man named Corll. "I don't know why newspapers print lies given by murderers," she said.

An 1968 traffic citation issued to Dean Arnold Corll lists his address then as 1156 W. 22nd., a small duplex in the Heights. Neighbors there say they do not remember him.



Elmer Wayne Henley Jr.'s grandmother, Mrs. Christine Weed, left, leads the way as Henley's mother, Mrs. Mary Henley and attorney Ed Pegelow leave district court Thursday. Dist. Judge William Hatten delayed action on a prosecution

motion to get a quick psychiatric examination and said that the youth, 17, indicted in three of the mass slayings, will be arraigned and enter his plea next Wednesday.

Chronicle 8-16-73

Briscoe asks runaways to contact parents

Post 8-18-73

By ART WIESE

Post State Capital Bureau

AUSTIN — In the wake of Houston's mass murders, Gov. Dolph Briscoe appealed to runaway teenagers Friday to contact their parents "and let them know they are alive and well."

He also pleaded with other persons who know the whereabouts of missing youths to notify parents or friends of their safety.

The bodies of 27 young boys or men who allegedly were the victims of a Houston homosexual murder ring have been discovered in the last two weeks in Harris, San Augustine, Chambers and Jefferson counties.

Only 12 of the bodies have been positively identified so far.

"Recent discoveries of unidentified bodies in the Houston area in connection with the investigation of a grim and hideous series of murders in the Houston area has brought sickness and sorrow to the hearts of many people throughout Texas and the

'It is my hope that he will be encouraged to communicate with family...'

nation," Briscoe said in a statement distributed by his office.

"While many feel the anguish and distress of this tale of horror, no one can be more deeply affected than the families and friends of young people who are missing from their homes. . .

"If a young person who is missing from his home, and has not communicated with his family, is reached by this message, it is my hope that he will be strongly encouraged to communicate with family, friends or law enforcement officials so that his safety can be determined.

"We do not ask that they return or do anything that they do not wish to do beyond this simple act of charity.

"If someone knows of a young person who is missing from home — and safe — it is my hope that they will assist in bringing relief to those who suffer in an awful uncertainty."

More than a million youngsters ran away from home in the United States in 1972, but police say all but a few eventually return home on their own.

Some of the parents of runaways who were identified among the murder victims have bitterly complained that the Houston Police Department made only cursory efforts to find the youths when they were first reported to be missing.

Police Chief Herman Short angrily denied that charge last Tuesday, calling it a "disgusting attempt at scapegoating." He said the parents of runaways often are at fault themselves for not exercising enough control over their children.

Corll didn't kill 'all of those boys,' his mother claims

Post 8-19-73

Special to The Post

would try to be in Colorado about Sept. 1.

MANITOU SPRINGS, Colo. —Dean Corll always was popular with children.

He once outfitted a van truck with cushions, carpets and a television set, so he could take neighborhood kids to picnics on the beach.

"And he was always buying things that would make him feel important to these little kids," Corll's mother recalled Saturday night.

But, she insisted, "my son didn't kill all of those boys."

Mrs. Mary West, a Manitou Springs candy maker, spoke in proud terms of her son — a suspected homosexual slayer of some 27 youths in Houston.

Shortly before her son was shot to death by one of his teen-aged accusers, Corll called his mother in Colorado.

"I'm in trouble," he told her. "I'm going to leave this town."

Mrs. West said she pleaded with her son to return to Colorado, but he said he would prefer "hiding out for awhile" first.

And then, she said, Corll threatened to commit suicide by taking a drug overdose.

"You have to face life,"

Mrs. West said she told her son. "Taking dope is no way out. You'll only carry your problems to the next life, so you might as well take care of them now.

"He answered me, by telling me it might be easier in another life."

A few days later, he was shot to death, and his slaying triggered an investigation that disclosed the macabre mass killings — the worst case of mass murders in the United States this century.

In another telephone call to his mother a few days before his death, Corll said that he was "dodging somebody," but wouldn't say who he was running from.

He told his mother he

At the time, Mrs. West said, she had no idea of what kind of trouble her son might be in, but she suspected it might have been related to debts he had from operating a Houston candy store.

There had been no hint that he was involved in homosexual activity, she said.

"He wasn't a homosexual," she insisted. "He was used somehow" by the youths who have accused him of killing the young boys, she said.

Mrs. West calls her son "loyal, obedient, helpful, loving and a good normal boy."

But, she said, "he was the kind of person who never wanted to get close enough to anyone so they could get ties on him. He had seen so many broken marriages."

The broken marriages, apparently, were mostly his mother's.

She told of divorcing his father, Arnold, when her son was an infant, then of two other broken marriages in later years.

"Dean stayed with me and was very close to me through it all," Mrs. West said.

She noted that when Corll was seven doctors discovered he had a heart murmur resulting from rheumatic fever suffered when he was an infant.

"The doctors wouldn't let him play ball or let him do any physical exercise," she said.

His younger brother, Stanley, "played on all the teams. Dean was always there cheering him," Mrs. West said.

She said her son "always looked over his younger brother and later his sister, Joyce, 18, who now lives with Mrs. West in Manitou Springs.

"He was always so popular with younger kids. His nieces and nephews all love him because he was so good to them," Mrs. West said.

In 1963, she said, her son got a job with the Houston Lighting & Power Co., but at night would make candy in the little store his mother operated in Houston's Heights area.

"Kids flocked around him there, too, she said. "He'd let them in nights to play penny-ante or pool on a table he had set up in a back room. He was always giving them rides on his motorcycle."

Corll's Mother Talks

Says Son 'Was Used'

(See related stories on Pages 4 and 17)

BY BEVERLY HARRIS
Chronicle Staff
© 1973, The Houston Chronicle

Mother's love doesn't quite explain Mary West's tenacious grip on her quaking world.

Headlines all over the globe are screaming that her son may have been involved in the torture and sex murder of 27 innocent boys.

She says simply: "No. He was used."

Mrs. West, a widow, is so sure the name of her firstborn, Dean Arnold Corll, will be cleared that she told The Chronicle: "I am more than happy to say what I have to say."

That even includes relating a telephone conversation she had with Dean on Aug. 4. From Houston, he called his mother at her home in Manitou Springs, Colo., a resort community in the shadow of Pikes Peak.

'Mother, I'm in Trouble'

"How are you, Dean?" she asked.

"All right — but, Mother, I'm in trouble. I'm going to drop out of sight," he told her. Then he added, "I could take an overdose."

Mrs. West was startled. "You're not on dope!" She insists that she never had any trouble with any of her three children getting involved with narcotics.

"No," Dean replied. "But it would be one way of getting out of this."

"Then he told me, 'I can't talk about it,' so I didn't ask him," Mrs. West recalls.

Looking back, she believes he must have called her "right after those last two murders. He found out what those boys were doing."

She told him: "Dean, taking your life will not solve your problems. You'll have to carry your problems to your next life, so you might as well start now."

But Dean answered, "Mother, it might be easier to start over in another life."

Only when she is reminded that her son is dead does Mary West show her grief. Her chin quivers, but she does not break down.

Her 18-year-old daughter, Joyce, sat with her during the interview. Twice when she saw her mother tremble, she reached out and held her hand.

Sent Him Candy, Book

After that telephone conversation, Mrs. West sent her son some candy, a letter and a book, "Help for Today," by Ernest Holmes.

"Now they can't find his clothes, his books — nothing. I think they may have found the letter." By "they" she meant the police.

"The Sunday before he was killed I called him. There was no answer all day. That night, about 7 o'clock, he answered the phone and said, 'I've been dodging somebody'."

He told her he planned to leave Houston "the first of the month," then chatted amiably about coming to see her and bringing a copper pot for her candy kitchen and a gadget that automatically cuts off the gas at the proper time for candy cooking.

"He was planning to help in the candy shop," Mrs. West

said. He also told her he would bring a truck that would be used in making candy deliveries to retail stores in Colorado Springs, Denver and other towns.

Mrs. West then told of a telephone conversation reported by a Houston relative, shortly before her son's death. Dean asked the woman, "Do you think your daughter would like to live in this house?"

The woman replied, "I don't think so. Why?" He replied that he might have to leave. She said, "Now Dean, we've been real close. You know your daddy's nervous. We can talk it over and work it out."

But Dean told her, "I can't talk about it — I'll handle it."

Mrs. West continued: "That Monday night he went over to his daddy's house and worked on a broken television set. Nothing was said about his anxieties."

The next day, said Mrs. West, the relative called Dean and said, "You have us worried to death. Isn't there something I can do?" He said, "No, I have everything under control."

Wednesday the relative called him again, this time at work. He hadn't come in. She tried his house. A man answered. She asked for Dean, but the man insisted on knowing who she was. When she identified herself, the man told her, "Lady, the only thing I can tell you is that you can't talk to Dean because he is dead."

(Dean Corll was shot to death on Wednesday, Aug. 8).

At this point in her story, Mary West's face showed pain, and Joyce, an unaffected girl with an appealing look, reached to give her mother silent comfort.

"Mama," Joyce then said, "remember the last time Dean talked to his girl friend — he said he was going to come up here and he told her he'd send for her. I don't think he would have said that if he hadn't planned to marry her. (There have been unconfirmed reports that Corll planned to marry a Houston girl within a few weeks.) Didn't he tell her not to tell David where he was going?"

(This was an apparent reference to David Owen Brooks, 18, a friend and former roommate of Dean Corll. Brooks has told police that he witnessed some of the 27 murders but did not help kill anybody, although he helped bury some of the bodies).

In response to her daughter's question Mrs. West shook her head and told her daughter, "Let's not drag her (Dean's girl friend) into this. It isn't fair."

Neither is it fair, she insisted, that Dean is accused of keeping a "torture board" at his father's lake home.

"His daddy had cleaned that place from top to bottom just the weekend before, even the attic. There was no torture board. That board was planted."

Until Mary West returned to Houston after her son's death and viewed his body in his coffin, she had not seen him in five years, although during that time they kept in touch by telephone. His phone number is written at the top of a list tacked next to the telephone in her candy shop.

She refuses to believe that his character took a drastic turn during those five years, changing from the loving, good-natured son she knew to the homosexual monster depicted by Brooks and Wayne Henley since the 27 murders were revealed.

(Wayne Henley, 17, killed Corll in the latter's home at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena. He said he did so because he thought Corll was about to kill a 15-year-old girl and a 20-year-old boy he had handcuffed to a torture board. He said he also feared for his own life because Corll was handcuffing him. Henley since has been charged with three murders but has admitted nine, police say.)

Showing pictures of Dean as a child, his mother described their homelife from the time he was born on Christmas Eve 33 years ago in Waynedale, Ind.

It is a story of many moves and broken marriages but apparent concern for the children.

Mrs. West is firm in wanting to show no ill will toward Dean's father, blaming two divorces from Arnold Corll on a difference in temperament.

He is a good man, she said, but their ideas on child-rearing clashed. For instance, she said, there was the time that Dean, just in the walking stage, climbed into the toilet, shoes and all.

She smiled. "I thought it was cute — an achievement. But his father took the impression that Dean had done something wrong."

Mrs. West has trouble recalling exact dates. She believes Dean was about 6 years old when she and her husband were divorced. "My husband was drafted then and was sent to an Army Air Force base in Memphis."

Soon she sold their small house, bought a trailer and moved to Memphis with the thought of reuniting with Corll.

But their differences were quickly renewed, and instead, the young mother took a job and enrolled Dean and his younger brother, Stanley, in a day nursery which was financed by the government.

When the government withdrew aid from the project, she put an ad in the local paper asking for a couple interested in child care. An elderly farm couple responded and allowed her to pull her trailer into their yard under a pecan tree.

"They watched the kids while I was working. Dean went to school on the bus and Stanley (not yet of school age) loved to take his shoes off and follow the old farmer with his one-horse plow, up one row and down another. One time the old man plowed Stanley's shoes under."

The boys had the run of the cotton farm. It was a happy, normal time for them, Mrs. West recalls.

Moved to Houston

The war ended and Mary and Arnold Corll decided to try marriage again.

Knowing they would be living from paycheck to paycheck, they figured they'd better live near relatives. Corll had relatives in Florida and Texas. They chose Houston.

They pulled the trailer into a park on Wayside near Telephone Rd., and later bought a house in Pecan Park.

Once more the marriage floundered. Mrs. West emphasizes: "He is a good, moral man. It was a personality clash."

She and the boys moved to a two-bedroom apartment with shared bathroom on Christensen St., half a block from Ripley House where the boys were enrolled.

"They took beautiful care of the boys," she said. "One day they called me and said that Dean had a heart murmur. I took him to a cardiologist and worried for three days."

The medical report revealed that the murmur was a congenital defect, and the mother was advised to see that Dean got plenty of rest and to restrict him from participating in contact sports.

"So he took up music," said Mrs. West.

(Dean apparently outgrew the heart condition, as it posed no problem at his induction into the Army on Aug. 10, 1964.)

To Pecan Park

The next move took them to Pecan Park and a house on Keller St. that sat on the edge of swampy woods.

Dean, Stanley and boys of the neighborhood loved to roam in the swamp looking for rattlesnakes. They carried pellet guns. "We have never had any real guns in the house," said Mrs. West.

In her story, this was the first mention of Dean's rapport with other youngsters. "I bought a television set (at a time when television was fairly new) and I had kids in the house all the time."

She continued: "At this time I married Mr. West. We sold the house on Keller and moved to Vidor, Texas. He worked as a salesman for Westclox and traveled to Louisiana, Mississippi and around Texas. Joyce was born in Beaumont."

Life in Vidor

Mrs. West likes to recall this time in her life. "We built the biggest, most beautiful home in Vidor. We lived in it while we kept building. Dean was right there all the time, helping."

A three-car garage took form beneath the bedroom section. When a friend in the pecan shelling business suggested that area as a likely spot to set up shelling equipment and go into business, the Wests agreed, working on a "share arrangement."

Mrs. West began experimenting with candy recipes. Thousands of pounds of pecans moved through that garage, and Dean, now old enough to drive, hauled pecans from a Houston warehouse to Vidor.

"Dean ran back and forth delivering the candy. He did everything we asked him to do."

That statement is a recurring theme in her story: Dean always did what he was asked, he was always polite, he was kind to animals, children and old people.

And his half-sister Joyce insists: "He always seemed to have his head together."

No Strange Habits

"Some of my friends and relatives now are saying that Dean must have had a brain tumor," said Mrs. West. "But I don't believe that. That's just making excuses."

She never had reason to believe he needed psychiatric care, she insists. He was a normal baby, with no problems of colic or erratic sleep habits. As a boy, he had no strange habits, she says.

In Vidor he raised pigeons and rabbits, and set traps for flying squirrels, which he brought with gloved hands into the house.

"He was always understanding, very affectionate, especially to little children."

Nearly Fainted

Only once, after the heart murmur episode, did she fear for his health. One morning during a church service in Beaumont, Dean, in his Sunday best including a tie, almost fainted.

"We took him outside and loosened his collar, then took him to the doctor," said his mother.

At that time Dean was learning to skin dive. The doctor said "absolutely not again," Mrs. West recalls. "It was the pressure on his neck that caused him to black out."

After that, Dean may have been more careful about tight neckties, but his clothing and hair were always neat, she said. He never went through a hippie phase.

"And no drugs. Never," she said.

Instead, says his sister Joyce, "he got his high from working on his trucks and vans and going to the beach. He didn't need drugs."

Move to Heights

The Vidor phase — along with Dean's formal schooling — ended when the family sold their home and moved to Houston in order to be closer to their business contacts.

They settled on a quail farm on the Dallas highway, converting a small building to a candy shop.

Dean had no heart to enroll in a new high school, choosing instead to earn his diploma through correspondence.

The next move was to the Heights, on 12½ St., setting up the candy shop on 13th St.

"While we were moving," Mrs. West recalls, "Dean went to live with my mother in Indiana. I guess it was my idea — he was working too hard for us for nothing. He went along with anything I suggested if it made sense."

The moving was far from over. After over two years in Indiana, Dean returned to help his family, now in a house on 6½ St., with the lower part of a garage apartment converted into a candy shop.

Dean lived above the shop, in the first place of his own.

He "fixed it up," said his mother, and invested in all sorts of gadgets. "He had a tape recorder and a set of sleep-learning tapes. He put the speaker under his pillow so he could learn Spanish while he slept," she said, still amused at the idea.

Honda, Then Van

"He bought a Honda and dragged kids all around on it. In the winter he sold it for whatever was due on it," she said.

She doesn't recall dates of purchases, but noted that he

also bought a Dodge van and furnished it with a television set.

"We helped him carpet it. Dean didn't spend money on drinking and that kind of fooling around," she said. "If he needed a new truck or car, we let him have it."

He made purchases through Household Finance. "They'd show him how it wouldn't cost any more per month to add on, so he got what he needed."

Joyce recalls how much Dean enjoyed his backyard apartment. "He'd be upstairs watching television and when he heard something funny he'd laugh so hard we could hear him from the house."

However, the candy shop below his quarters outgrew its boundaries and the family moved again.

This time there was more involved. Mr. and Mrs. West disagreed over a business matter and decided not only to dissolve their partnership but their marriage as well.

Free Candy for Kids

"I started the Corll Candy Co. with my two sons on 22nd St. We didn't know if it would go or not, so Dean got a job

at Houston Lighting & Power Co. and would come in to help at night."

It was in this location that neighbors have said Dean invited children over for free candy. Mrs. West verifies that "kids in the neighborhood came over to play penny ante and to play pool with Dean."

He also rigged up a telephone for their amusement. It was shaped like a giant frog whose eyes lit up when the phone rang. By pressing a button, she said, he could carry on a conversation without interrupting the pool game.

Mrs. West's final marriage took place and ended almost immediately. It was a bad experience she still doesn't like to talk about, bad enough to cause the family to drift apart.

And her own life changed in the direction of religion.

She moved to Colorado. After that her only contact with Dean was by telephone.

Story of Telescope

As Mrs. West recalled how her son rigged a telephone with a receiver shaped like a

frog, she was reminded of a story he liked to tell.

It happened while Dean Corll was staying with his grandmother in Indiana. He bought a 600-power telescope and set it up in the corner of the barn, then invited his grandmother to look through it.

It was trained on the neighbor's farm a half-mile away. Through the powerful scope she watched her neighbors feeding their stock. "What do you think of that?" Dean asked her.

"Shhhh!" she replied. "They'll hear us!"

Son She Never Knew

Mrs. West, far away now in distance and time from Dean's amusing stories about his grandmother, pleads: "Does this sound like a boy who would murder and do all those horrible things he is accused of?"

And yet there was that haunting telephone call, "Mother — I'm in trouble." Since then everything she has heard about him has been about a Dean Corll she never knew.



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DEAN CORLL IN HIS ARMY UNIFORM
After His Induction on Aug. 10, 1964



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DEAN CORLL, LEFT, WITH MOTHER AND BROTHER IN JUNE, 1950
Stanley Was 7 Years Old, Dean Was 10

Corll's innocence believed by family

Post 8-20-73

By JON STANDEFER

Post Reporter

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Dean Corll found out the truth about his teen-aged friends only shortly before his death—he may even have been slain while trying to call for help.

That is the unshakable belief of his family.

In a two-hour interview with The Houston Post Sun-

day, Corll's father, stepmother, stepbrother and half sister repeated their faith that Dean had nothing to do with the slayings of 27 young

moosexual madman: "They've convicted him without any proof," said Mrs. Corll.

The picture they retain of Dean Corll is one of an easy-going, helpful young man, normal in every way.

They believe Dean "found out something was wrong" about three weeks before he died. Mrs. Corll said she had been giving him tablets for

Post exclusive

boys whose bodies have been unearthed.

The family is angry and frustrated at the news media for portraying Dean as a ho-

Please see Corll's/page 24A

From page 1

an upset stomach for about that long.

"If he had been doing all this for three years," said his father, "why hadn't he been having an upset stomach all this time?"

It was Mrs. Corll, who has been married to Dean's father for four years, who received a call from Dean about a week before his death.

"He told me he may have to leave town in a hurry," she said. "I asked him to tell me why, and he told me he was having some kind of trouble."

When she pressed him, he told his stepmother that it was "something I can't talk about."

Concerned, Mrs. Corll said she called him back the next day and asked him again to tell her his problem.

"He said, 'It's all taken care of,'" Mrs. Corll related. "After that, I didn't worry about him." The next time she called him, she learned from a policeman that Dean Corll was dead.

The family wants to know the truth: "We want to know, no matter what it is," said Mrs. Corll. And she added, obviously thinking of the parents of the other slain youths, "If he had to die in order to stop this, then we're for it."

At the same time, however, his family believes Dean was framed. And they show deep anguish that, since he is dead, he cannot defend himself.

"Only two people know," said Corll's father. "God and Dean."

Not a single person has come forward with a single derogatory remark about Dean," said his stepmother.

Except for Wayne Henley and David Brooks, both of whom have been indicted for murder, everyone who knew Dean has called him polite, courteous and helpful.

"I worked with him daily for months," said his stepbrother, who would not give his name, "and nothing I've ever seen or heard about Dean or ever noticed while I was with him causes me to have any doubts about him whatsoever."

While the family is sympathetic to police for their own problems, they believe there are questions that should be raised. Among them:

- Why have authorities called Corll the ringleader when there is any possibility that Henley and Brooks may be lying and trying to put the blame on Corll? In other words, are the police relying only upon the word of the two youths?

- How can police be sure there are no others involved and that Dean was killed because he knew too much?

- Why has not anyone been able to find any deviate behavior in Dean's past, if indeed he was the murderer of 27 young boys?

- If Henley was bound with tape over his mouth

when he came to the night he killed Dean, how could he have "talked his way out" of being slain, as he has claimed?

- Finally, if the accounts of the party in the bedroom of Dean's house is true, why was his body found in the hallway near the telephone?

"We believe he was trying to call for help," said Mrs. Corll.

The Corll family is one of inner strength. Though deeply hurt by what they feel has been unjust press coverage, they are polite, gentle folk.

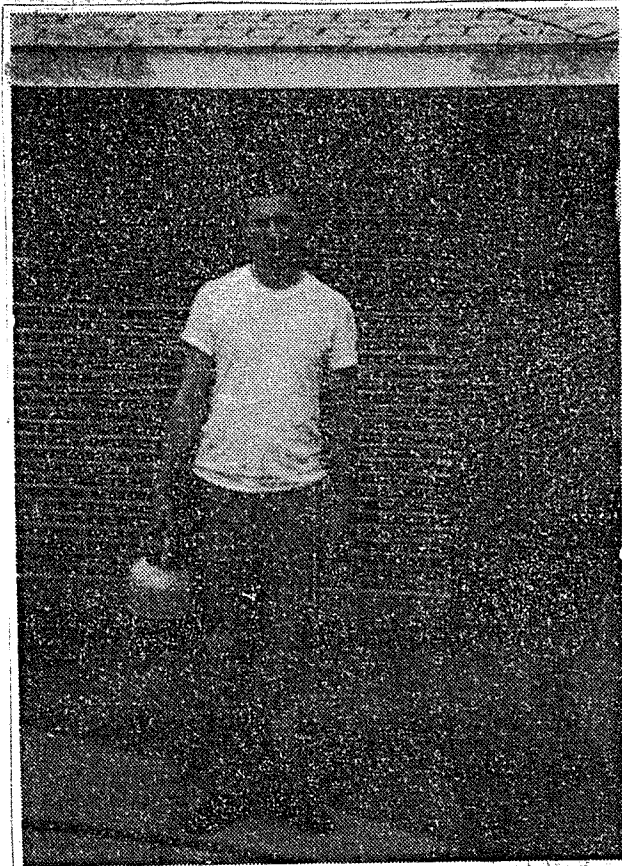
Arnold Corll is a slender, bespectacled man with a firm handshake and sorrow in his eyes. His wife is calm, rational and articulate.

They are parents who have lost a son, and whose sadness is compounded by the worldwide publicity surrounding his death.

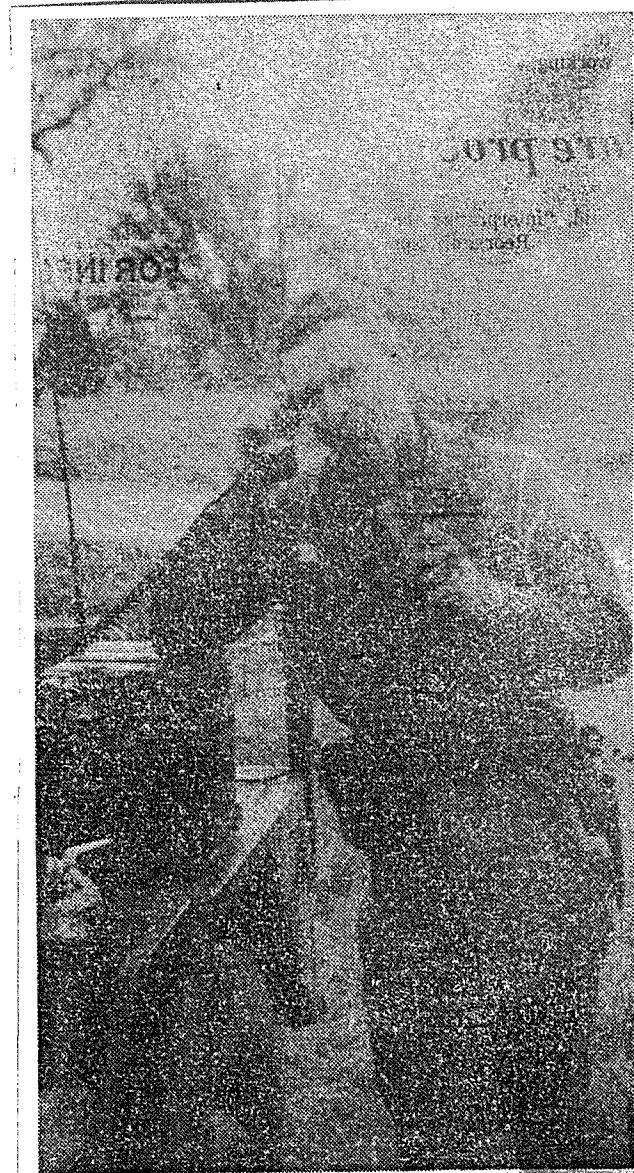
They have received anonymous phone calls, even after changing their telephone number. Rude reporters and ever-lurking photographers have dogged their paths.

They are trying to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.

As one asked: "Is this what we face for the rest of our life?"



Corll in front of father's Laredo house
—Photo by permission of Stern Magazine



Dean Corll on Army maneuvers in 1965
—Photo by permission of Stern Magazine

Teens face mental test in slayings

Post 8-23-73

Elmer Wayne Henley and David Owen Brooks, both charged with participation in killings that left 27 youths dead, will face psychiatric examinations.

Dist. Judge William M. Hatten ruled Wednesday that the two be given the examinations over the objections of their lawyers.

Hatten also set Oct. 8 as the date for the arraignment of the two.

Edwin F. Pegelow, one of Henley's lawyers, said he opposed the examination although by law the contents of such an interview could not be held against a defendant in a trial.

"A defense lawyer is always suspicious of everybody, especially county officials," Pegelow said.

The examinations will be carried out by three consultants to Harris County, an independent psychiatrist and

Please see Teens/page 23A

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any other doctors chosen by the defendants.

Pegelow said he opposed a Wednesday arraignment for 17-year-old Henley because his client had not been served with copies of three murder indictments against him.

The indictments were presented to Charles Melder, Henley's other lawyer, said Assistant Dist. Atty. Michael J. Hinton.

Ted Musick, Brooks' lawyer, objected to an early arraignment and to the psychiatric examination on grounds that he had not had sufficient time to consult with the youth. Brooks, 18, is

named in one murder indictment.

The slayings first came to light Aug. 8 after Henley told police he had killed Dean Arnold Corll, 33, in self defense. Henley led police to a boat storage shed in southwest Houston where 17 bodies were unearthed.

Another four bodies were discovered near Sam Rayburn Reservoir and six more near High Island. Brooks has accused Corll and Henley of torturing and killing the youths after forcing them to participate in homosexual acts.

The motion filed by the state argued that "the magnitude, the complexity and the atrocity and depravity of the crimes" called for a total ex-

petency "in the interest of the state, the defendant and society."

Although Melder said the case "smacks of insanity" and indicated he would seek a sanity hearing, Pegelow said insanity is not the only possible defense.

"Duress (by Corll) is also possible," Pegelow said.

He said further motions will be filed at the time of the arraignments.

Musick said he would request a change of venue to some other county in respect to Brooks' trial. Melder has said he felt Henley could get a fair trial in Harris County.

Security was tight at Wednesday's hearing as bailiffs formed a flank behind the defendants. Other bailiffs

stood outside the courtroom doors.

Hatten denied entrance to everyone arriving after the hearing had begun, including two detectives who have worked on the case since its inception.

W. L. Young and T. E. Baker had several arrest warrants for the father of Wayne Henley, Elmer Wayne Henley Sr., and had gone to court on the chance he would appear at his son's hearing.

Both Houston police and sheriff's deputies have been searching for the elder Henley since his current estranged wife, Emma, was allegedly picked up by the man at gunpoint last weekend and threatened.

Henley has been filed on for

assault by both his present wife and his former wife, Mary, the mother of the murder suspect.

Sheriff Jack Heard expressed surprise that the detectives were turned away but said the bailiffs there were under orders of the court.

Hinton said "a couple of telephone calls" of a threatening nature had been received at the courthouse, as well as a letter postmarked out of state and addressed to the district attorney's chief prosecutor.

The letter, he said, "threatens everybody — prosecutors, defense attorneys, everybody." He said the letter was turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Teen girl, sailor testify in slayings

Post 8-22-73

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

A judge ordered the news media off of two floors of the Harris County Criminal Courts Building Tuesday as a teen-aged girl and a sailor who once knew Dean Corll testified before a grand jury.

The ruling of Juvenile Court Judge Criss Cole came at the request of Mike Ramsey, lawyer for Ronda Williams, 15, who allegedly was about to become one of Corll's next victims when Elmer Wayne Henley shot Corll five times Aug. 8.

Henley, 17, and David Owen Brooks, 18, are indicted on

four counts of murder in connection with three of the deaths of 27 boys which came to light when Henley led officers to their scattered graves.

Police have said Henley and Brooks provided numerous boys for Corll, 33, as part

Hopes gone/page 21C

of a sex and murder ring. The two youths implicated each other in the disposing of the bodies, police said.

The indictments against Henley and Brooks allege that they took part in the killing.

Miss Williams and Robert Michael Ethridge, 17, a sea-

Please see Teen/page 21A

custody.

"It's my responsibility to take care of the child's best interests," Cole said. The court, he said, "has the power" to take such a step.

Jerry Smith, news director at KXYZ and president of the local Sigma Delta Chi national journalism society, filed a protest against Judge Cole's order with County Judge Bill Elliott's office on behalf of the local chapter. Smith said he protested to Elliott on the assumption that he had administrative control of county buildings.

Ramsey said Miss Williams would have to return to her friends and her classmates and he did not want all the publicity accompanying the case to remain with her.

"There is no contention she is guilty of anything," he said. "She stumbled into this mess. She's doing all she can to cooperate."

Assistant Dist. Atty. Michael J. Hinton had similar comments about Ethridge, who he said was not in custody and was not charged with anything but was appearing voluntarily.

Ethridge, who along with Henley and Brooks dropped out of Hamilton Junior High School, told a chaplain and a Naval Intelligence officer



ROBERT M. ETHRIDGE

what he knew after reading about the case in newspaper clippings sent him by his mother, Hinton said.

Naval Intelligence notified the district attorney's office and Hinton flew to San Diego Sunday to get Ethridge and bring him back, he said.

Dist. Atty. Carol S. Vance said Ethridge had known Corll, Henley and Brooks "quite some time. They lived fairly close together."

Ethridge grew up in the Heights and joined the Navy in San Diego last month, Hinton said. His parents are separated. Hinton said he could not give the name of Ethridge's mother, where she lived or where Ethridge once lived.

The young, uniformed sailor hurried through a corridor into the grand jury room and would not answer questions from newsmen.

Hinton said he expected Ethridge to return to San Diego Wednesday.

Miss Williams, whose father, Ben Williams, retained Ramsey and Richard Haynes to represent his daughter in legal proceedings, has not produced any new major leads for investigators, police said last week and Hinton reiterated Tuesday.

The long-haired girl also



Panzica reads court order to newsmen

—Post photo by Manny Chavez

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man recruit at the Naval Recruit Training Center in San Diego, came before the grand jury to testify about their knowledge of Corll and the two youths.

As Ethridge, a former schoolmate of Henley and Brooks from the Heights, finished his testimony, Frank V. Panzica, a bailiff for Cole, read the order from the judge, in whose custody Miss Williams is a ward.

Cole said that to "protect the best interest" of Miss Williams he was ordering all photographers and newsmen to cease and desist from taking pictures or interviewing her. He did not limit the time or place of the order.

He further ordered all photographers and newsmen to vacate the floor the grand jury was on and the floor the district attorney's office was on while Miss Williams was going to and from the grand jury room.

Cole said later he did not know whether just such an order had a precedent in Texas or Harris County but said he had known of rulings restricting all except parents and lawyers from contact with juveniles under court

came from the Heights and is listed in police missing persons reports as having been the last person known to have seen Frank Aguirre, a possible murder victim, alive.

Miss Williams was at a party with Henley and Timothy Kerey, 20, at Corll's house at 2020 Lamaa Drive in Pasa-

dena when Corll was killed.

Henley told officers he "sweet talked" Corll out of killing him after he found Kerley and Miss Williams handcuffed. Later he grabbed Corll's gun and in a confrontation shot Corll, he said.

The grand jury investigation will continue.

Woman tells her memories of Dean Corll

By MIRIAM KASS
Post Reporter

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When you ask her if she was engaged to Dean Corll, Betty hesitates, shrugs her slim shoulders and then says, "He didn't ask me to marry him."

But they were closer recently, before his death, than at any time before. And the words of hope—ominous words, it now seems—come back to her.

"Last time I talked to him he said he was going to go on over to Colorado and he'd send for me later. Almost his last words were, 'Whatever you do, don't tell David I'm leaving.'"

She knew he was talking about David Brooks, one of the young men who has since accused Corll of mass murder. She had known David for about three years.

"I didn't like David. I really didn't," she admits reluctantly. "But there was

Post exclusive

no basis for it . . . He was very nice to me always."

Not that she had much contact with David, or with Wayne Henley for that matter. It was Dean whom she cared about, Dean who had been so close to her children they called him Daddy, Dean who would have them all to his apartment and cook dinner for them, who would listen with endless sympathy to the problems of a 30-year-old divorcee with two children and no child support, who would love the children when other men would rather ignore them.

It was Dean who would quietly give her \$5 to hold her over until payday and would accept no payment for the debt.

Betty is slight with dark, sallow skin and hair of the same color. She has deep blue eyes.

She does not want to be fully identified because she does not want her children to suffer. She tells them that the Dean described in the newspapers is not the Dean she knew.

She has known him since she was 15, when she worked at his mother's candy factory. It was casual then, strictly

business. But five years ago, when she was divorced, they began to date.

They would go to a show, sometimes alone, but often with a whole delegation. "One time we took my two sisters, my two children, my brother and his friend, my little niece, and Billy Balch," she recalls.

One of the bodies they dug up has been thought to be Billy. He is the only one of the other boys she knew, she says. "A very nice kid" that she fixed up with her sister about five years ago.

It was only about a year ago that she met Wayne Henley. "Dean brought him over to meet a girl I know. Right away she didn't like Wayne," Betty recalls. "She left."

Since Corll's death, Wayne Henley has been indicted in three murders and David Brooks has been indicted in one.

As for Dean, who has been accused of torturing and murdering boys, Betty does not know what to say. None of it hangs together.

"I don't believe he killed the boys," she says helplessly. "I don't believe he was capable of killing anyone. Of course, I could be prejudiced, you know, since I cared so much about him."

She tries to think back and she realizes Dean never talked about his past or the life he led away from her.

"Now that you ask me what we talked about I feel like I'm the one who talked all the time. It makes me sound like such a blabbermouth," she chuckles sadly.

"He was the kind of person I could tell anything to and know it wouldn't get any further."

But for Dean even to tell her not to tell David about his Colorado plans—"maybe it was the one time since I'd ever known him that he had taken me into his confidence."

She feels he was framed somehow. "The pieces, they're not falling into place," she says.

"I've been to almost all those apartments and never have I run into the things they claim Dean had around. I've been in the van I don't know how many times . . .

"I would drop in on him at his apartment whenever I felt like it. There were never any objections or questions, nothing as if he was hiding anything.

Houston Psychologist's Book

Lawmaker Says Sex Text, Slayings Linked

Chronicle 8-23-73

A California legislator claims a sex education text written by a Houston psychologist is partly to blame for the 27 sex-torture slayings linked to Pasadena bachelor Dean Arnold Corll.

Assemblyman Floyd Wakefield of South Gate, Cal., said the book, "Human Sexuality: A Guide for Young Adults," was found in Corll's home at 2020 Lamar, where he was shot to death Aug. 8.

But Dr. James Leslie McCary, author of the text, said

the book found in Corll's home was "Human Sexuality," which he also authored, a college text used at the University of Houston and some 400 other colleges.

"I understand he (Corll) also had a copy of the Bible, 20 copies of Mechanix Illustrated and some copies of the Reader's Digest," said McCary, a clinical psychologist and UH psychology professor who has taught a sex education course at the university since 1965.

McCary said the text referred to by Wakefield is written for high school students and is less than a third the length of the 550-page college text.

The California state board of education adopted the high school text two months ago after a revision committee deleted discussions of masochism, sadism, transvestism and other sexual aberrations.

Wakefield said the high school text contended that "the more that scientists discover about sexual behavior, the less inclined they are to label unusual sexual expression as abnormal."

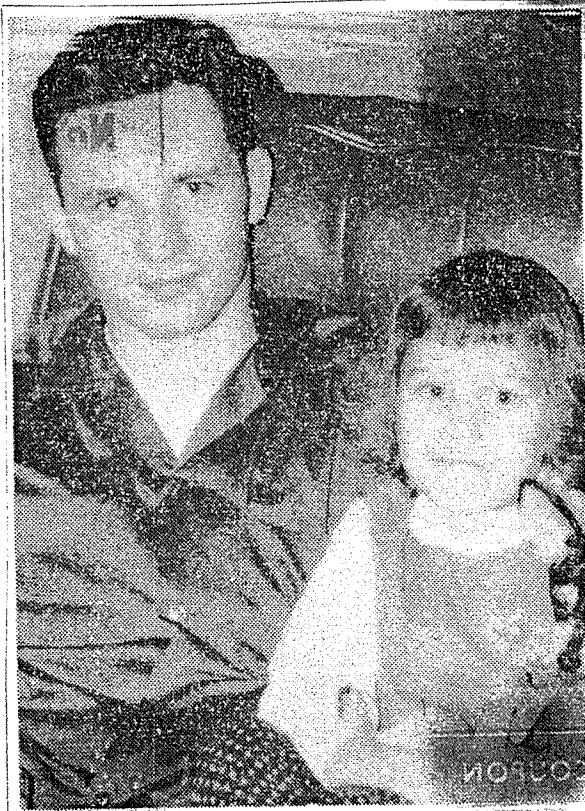
"I'm trying to make the point that all this type of stuff leads to warped minds and a warped sense of values in these young people, and I think it's high time we paid attention to what's happening to youth in this respect," Wakefield said.

"Perhaps you should take a trip to Texas and ask the parents of the 27 young boys (Corll's alleged victims) if the unusual sexual expressions he engaged in should be considered abnormal," Wakefield said in a letter to California Gov. Ronald Reagan and Wilson Riles, the head of the state schools.

Wakefield urged that the text be withdrawn from use in California schools.

McCary said that psychological studies have shown sex education to be a deterrent to crimes of sex. "The evidence is very clear that criminals convicted of sex crimes usually have had very little education about sex," he said.

McCary said his college textbook has been translated into four foreign languages and is used by more than 1000 students each semester at UH.



Dean Corll with sister in about 1960

"This is what I don't understand," she says with a face both intelligent and bewildered. "I could have come upon all those things . . ."

"I've been to his place in Pasadena . . . He'd let the children go into any room they wanted to. If he had things like this (torture instruments) around, why did he let them wander around?"

You know how kids are—"Look, Mommy, what I found!"

She searches her mind again. "One time he made the statement, too, that 'I've got to get away from the boys.'" She did not question his meaning.

If he had another life, she says, it does not surprise her that she knew nothing of it.

"He wouldn't have involved me in anything. I'm sure he had more respect for me than that. Or you could say love and respect. It may not be the kind of love you have for someone in your twenties . . ."

"Would you believe that what came back to me at the funeral is the last time he left me and me seeing him walk away. He just kissed me goodbye and said he would call me."

Now she grieves for a man who was good and she grieves for love and for hope.

"Everybody says it's pretty in Colorado," she says.

13th Slain Boy's Body Is Identified: Heights Runaway

Chronicle 8-22-73

Authorities have identified one of two bodies found in a grave near High Island as that of Johnny Delone, 16, of 1447 Tulane in the Heights. He had been missing since he ran away from home in May, 1972.

Delone, identified Tuesday from dental charts, was the 13th body identified of 27 found at the High Island site and two other locations in and near Houston.

A Harris County grand jury last week indicted Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, of 325 W. 27th, and David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd., on murder charges in the case.

Dist. Judge William M. Hatten today ordered psychiatric examinations for Henley and Brooks over defense objections.

Henley is charged in Harris County with murdering Marty Ray Jones, 18, of 1015 Arlington; Billy Ray Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st, and Charles

Cary Cobble, 17, of 304 W. 27th. Brooks is also charged in the murder of Lawrence.

Lawrence's body was one of four found in graves near Sam Rayburn Reservoir in San Augustine County. Authorities in that county have charged Henley with the murder of Lawrence and two unidentified victims.

Henley and Brooks said most of the 27 youths were

killed by Dean Arnold Corll, 33, an employe of Houston Light & Power Co. shot to death Aug. 8 in his home at 2020 Lamar in Pasadena.

Henley said he shot Corll in self defense after an all-night party of sex and paint-sniffing with Corll, a 20-year-old man and a 15-year-old girl.

Henley led police to a boat shed in southwest Houston that yielded 17 bodies. Henley

and Brooks then led authorities to the two other burial sites.

Police say some of the victims may never be identified. The 13 identified so far:

- Marty Jones. Last heard from when he phoned his father, Kenneth R. Jones of 1010 Woodland, on July 26 that he was in trouble and needed

(See 13th, Page 12)

FROM PAGE 1

money. His body was found in the boat shed and identified from dental records.

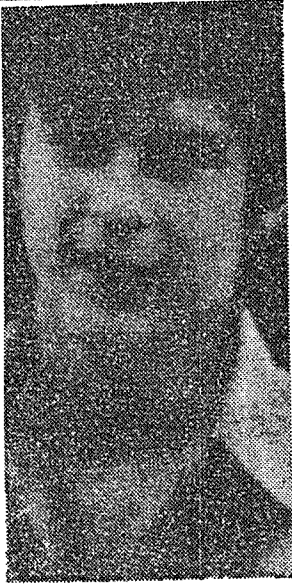
- Charles Cobble. Shared an apartment with Jones and was last heard from on July 26 when he phoned his father, V. T. Cobble, to ask for \$1000 for an "emergency." His body, shot twice in the head with a .22-calibre weapon, was found in the shed and identified from dental records. Jones and Cobble attended Reagan High School.

- Billy Lawrence, missing since July, was found in a grave near Broadus, where Corll's father owned a lake house.

- Donald Edward Waldrop, 15, and his brother, Jerry Lynn Waldrop, 13, both of the Heights, disappeared from their home in January, 1971. They were strangled and buried in the shed. They were identified by clothing.

- James S. Dreymla, 14, of 5411 Laurel Creek, was last seen Aug. 3 when he rode his bike to a friend's house. He phoned his father, Douglas Dreymla, later that night and asked to spend the night at a party. Dreymla told the youth to be home in 20 minutes, a neighbor said, but the family never saw him again.

Dreymla's body and his bicycle were found five days later at the shed. The youth, strangled and identified by



JOHNNY DELONE

fingerprints, is believed to be the most recent victim.

- James Eugene Glass, 14, of 1706 Wycliffe, and Danny Michael Yates, 15, of 10951 Htzelhurst, vanished during an evangelical rally here in December, 1970. Glass' father, William H. Glass, said the pair promised to "meet me out by the car" when the service was over. They were found strangled, buried in the shed and were identified from dental records.

- Ruben Willford Watson, 17, of 2317 Beall, told his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Haney, on Aug. 17, 1971, that he was

going to a movie. He was not seen again.

In a statement to police, Brooks said Watson was "the first killing I remember being present at." Brooks said Corll strangled Watson to death at Corll's apartment at 6363 San Felipe. The body was found in the boat shed and identified from dental records.

- Wally Jay Simoneaux, 14, of 1213 W. 24th, left home Oct. 2, 1972, to spend the night with Richard Hembree, 13, of 1426 W. 21st. Simoneaux' body was found in the boat shed; Hembree is still missing. Wally is the son of Mrs. W. J. Simoneaux of 3405 N. Shepherd.

- Jeffrey Alan Konen, 18, of 3118 Underwood, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, was last seen Sept. 25, 1970, at the corner of Voss and Westheimer. Konen's body was recovered from the sand near High Island. He apparently had been strangled.

- Raymond Stanley Blackburn, 20, of Baton Rouge, La., was last seen in early June, 1973, when he left his trailer home in Houston to visit his wife, Myrtle, 19, and their new baby in Baton Rouge. He was strangled and buried near the lake house.

Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, said Johnny Delone had been gagged, shot one time in the head with a .22-caliber bullet and strangled.

The boy was reported missing in May, 1972. His stepfather, Gerald Oncale, a salesman, said Johnny ran away from home. He was a student at Hamilton Junior High, where Henley and Brooks also attended.

Oncale said Johnny apparently ran away because Oncale would not let him associate with Billy Baulch, 18, another missing youth who police believe is one of the unidentified victims.

The Delone youth's last letter was mailed from Madisonville two weeks after he disappeared, Oncale said.

"He said he had found a good job loading trucks and would come home in three or four weeks, but he didn't," said Oncale.

Oncale later sought his stepson in Delcambre, La. and Champaign, Ill. Persons in both cities said they had seen the boy, some as recently as last month.

However, Jachimczyk said the body identified as Delone's could have been buried more than a year.

Oncale said he hopes Jachimczyk's identification is a mistake and that his stepson is still alive.

Sequence of Events in Slayings

Following is the sequence of events in the discovery of the multiple sex-slayings:

Aug. 8: Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, calls Pasadena police and says he has shot Dean Arnold Corll, 33, to death at Corll's home, 2020 Lamar in Pasadena. Henley says Corll told him he had killed some people and buried them, and leads police to a boat shed in southwest Houston. Diggers find bodies of eight teen-age boys under the shed.

Aug. 9: Diggers find nine more bodies under boat shed. Henley names other burial sites near Lake Sam Rayburn in East Texas and High Island on the Gulf Coast. David Owen Brooks, 18, calls Houston police and tells them he helped Corll bury some of the bodies. Henley leads officers to East Texas burial site, where two bodies are found.

Aug. 10: Authorities find two more bodies at East Texas site. San Augustine County officers charge Henley with murder. Galveston County officers charge Brooks with murder.

tells police he and Henley helped procure victims and Henley killed several. Police say Henley admits killing nine of the victims.

Aug. 11: Authorities suspend digging for weekend, with 23 bodies found so far. Houston and Pasadena police charge Henley and Brooks with murder. Harris County district attorney's office says death penalty probably does not apply to suspects in the sex slayings.

Aug. 13: Authorities find four more bodies near High Island, raising total of known victims to 27. Police express fear some victims may never be identified. Police dig behind a candy factory in Houston's Heights area where Corll formerly worked, but find no bodies.

Aug. 14: Digging is suspended in High Island area. Grand jury in Houston indicts Henley and Brooks in slayings. Harris County Dist. Atty. Carol Vance says he will not offer any suspect or witness immunity from prosecution in exchange for testimony. Henley, on advice from attorney, refused to undergo psychiatric examination.

Aug. 16: Galveston County authorities resume digging for bodies near High Island, but find no new graves. Dist. Atty. Vance asks court to order psychiatric hearings for Henley and Brooks. Dist. Judge William Hatten recesses hearing on motion until Aug. 22.

Aug. 17: Galveston County authorities again search beach without finding any new bodies.

Some Recorded Events In Dean Corll's Life

Chronicle 8-19-73

Dean Arnold Corll was born Dec. 24, 1939 in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

He died Aug. 8, 1973 in Pasadena, Texas.

The following are reported events from his life:

About 1945: Moved with his mother and younger brother to Memphis after parents obtained divorce.

About 1950: Parents remarried, moved with Dean to Houston.

1954: Moved to Vidor with mother after parents divorced again and mother remarried; attended Vidor High School.

1962: Moved back to Houston; helped family operate Corll Candy Co.; often gave candy to neighborhood children, lived with family at 721 E. 6½ Ave.

Aug. 10, 1964: Inducted into U.S. Army in Houston; sent to basic training at Ft. Polk, La.

June 11, 1965: Released from Army on hardship dis-

charge; returned to Houston and family candy business; lived with family at 505 W. 22nd.

Late 1965: Moved into apartment at 444 W. 21st; continued to work for family business.

1968: Enrolled in electrician training program at Houston Lighting & Power Co. after family business dissolved; mother moved to Colorado.

1969: Met and befriended David Owen Brooks, then 14, son of a Heights paving contractor. According to Brooks, paid him to perform homosexual acts.

1970: Reportedly moved to Yorktown Apartments, 3300 Yorktown; gave Brooks a car, reportedly in return for Brooks keeping secret his seeing two young boys tied naked to a board at the apartment.

1971-72: Reportedly lived in house at Schuler and Washington, apartment at 3200 Mangum, house at 915 Columbia.

According to Brooks, killed two boys at Columbia address, three on Schuler and two on Mangum. Met Elmer Wayne Henley, now 17.

June 26-Nov. 6, 1972: Rented apartment at Westcott Towers, 904 Westcott. According to Brooks, killed two boys there. Lived there five months.

July 15, 1972: Checked into apartment at 6363 San Felipe with Brooks and stayed six weeks; according to Brooks, killed one boy there.

Jan. 20-March 7, 1973: Rented apartment at Princessa Apartments, 1855 Wirt. According to Brooks, killed two boys there.

May or June, 1973: Moved into house owned by his father at 2020 Lamar, Pasadena.

Aug. 8, 1973: Shot to death by Henley at Pasadena address during what Henley said was a sex and paint-sniffing party.

'Dean's life was not shed in vain'

Post 8-19-73

My heart is heavy with sorrow; not only for the loss of my son, but also for the loss of all of the boys and people whose lives they touched.

To David and Wayne, you may have the best defense lawyer the world can offer but your best defense is God. You can lie, plan, and plant evidence to shift the blame to one who can not defend himself, but you surely know that your days on this earth are numbered, whether it is behind bars or walking the streets. We are not concerned with your bodies; but we are concerned with your souls. "And the truth will set you free".

If you knew where to find the bodies of these children, you also have a list of names. Please set the anxious parents hearts at ease, and seem how much better you feel.

by the
mother
of Dean Corll

Here are excerpts from an open letter that Mary West, the mother of Dean Arnold Corll, mailed to news media and addressed to 'all parents and friends of the missing boys and especially to David and Wayne.'

I'm not trying to solve this mystery, as I know nothing about the case. I only know that Dean loved both of you. He did things for you that you could not do for yourself but you cut off the hand that fed you. Dean can not help you now. . . .

Would he have rented the boat shack to bury bodies in and still loan it to friends of the family to store furniture in and help them move in? Would he ever stoop so low as

to have had these wild parties in a house belonging to his father whom he adored? He was not a sex maniac nor a sadist. You might be able to convince the type people who drag their children to see bodies dug up out of the earth that this is true, but the people who knew Dean, worked with him, raised him, will never believe these terrible accusations.

I called him on the tele-

phone Sunday night. I tried calling all day and when I finally got him he said he was dodging someone. He did not say who and I thought perhaps it was someone he might have owed money to. I did not worry, because Dean has never given me cause to worry.

I can not help but wander if the digging would have stopped if the record had not been broken. . . .

Now that the digging has stopped, lets keep searching for souls, with prayer letters to the press. I'm sure the press will cooperate, because they too could use a bit of God's help. . . .

Father God . . . I know that Dean's life was not shed in vain and know that our children who have left this earth plane have returned to You and are surrounded by your loving care. Grant the parents of all missing children the strength to wipe the bitterness from their hearts and know that You will not forsake us.

Thank you Father
And so it is.
Dean Corll's Mother,
Mary West.

(The spelling and punctuation follow that used in the letter.)

Mass slaying suspects named in 4 more indictments

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post 8-24-73
Post Reporter

A Harris County grand jury Thursday returned four more murder indictments against David Owen Brooks and Elmer Wayne Henley Jr., making the total eight so far.

The pair are suspects in the mass killings of 27 boys, who they have said were victims of a sex and murder ring master-minded by Dean Arnold Corll.

Henley shot Corll to death Aug. 8, allegedly in self-defense, after a party at

Corll's house at 2020 Lamar Drive in Pasadena.

Investigators then began uncovering bodies of the boys as Henley and Brooks led them to gravesites scattered around southeast Texas.

Brooks, 18, was indicted on three counts Thursday, in the slayings of Johnny Ray Delome, 16; James Eugene Glass, 14, and Ruben Willford Watson, 17. Henley, 17, was also indicted in Delome's death.

The indictments alleged that Glass and

Watson were killed by strangulation and Delome by shooting and strangulation.

Glass was said to have been killed Jan. 1, 1971; Watson on Aug. 20, 1971, and Delome on May 15, 1972.

Delome, whose mother and stepfather live at 1447 Tulane in the Heights, disappeared in May 1972. His body was found in a grave at High Island.

In his statement to police, Brooks mentioned a "Johnny Malone," possibly Delome, who was killed in Corll's apartment on Schuler.

Glass, whose father lives at 1706 Wycliffe, vanished during an evangelical rally in December 1970. His body was among those discovered buried in a boat shed rented by Corll at 4500 Silver Bell.

Watson, whose mother lives at 2017 Beall, disappeared Aug. 17, 1971, as he was going to a movie. Searchers uncovered his body at the boat shed.

Brooks said in his statement that he remembered the killing of Watson in Corll's apartment on San Felipe as being the first at which he was present.

Visiting Dist. Judge Jack Pierce of Nacogdoches set no bond on the new indictments.

Thus far, Brooks and Henley are each indicted on four counts of murder. Six victims are involved, two of them named in indictments against both of the accused youths.

Henley and Brooks were indicted Aug. 13 in the slaying of William Ray Lawrence, 15. Henley was indicted at the same time in the killings of Marty Ray Jones, 18, and Charles C. Cobble, 17.

Lawrence and Jones were strangled and Cobble was shot, the indictments said.

The bodies of Jones and Cobble were found in the boat shed. Lawrence's body was found buried near Sam Rayburn reservoir in San Augustine County.

Bond was set at \$100,000 on each of the earlier indictments.

Henley and Brooks are both in isolated cells in the Harris County jail.

The grand jury investigation of the mass murders is expected to continue next week.

Lawrence, 15, of 310 W. 31st; Raymond Stanley Blackburn, 20, of Baton Rouge, La., and two unidentified persons, said County Atty. James Daughterty.

Henley, already charged there with murder in the deaths of three unidentified victims, was charged Thursday with a fourth, Daughterty said.

Although Henley first was charged in San Augustine County, he will probably be tried first in Harris County because the San Augustine County grand jury does not meet until October and neither Henley nor Brooks was indicted there, Daughterty said.

Post 8-25-73

14th of 27 Youths

Teen's Body Is Identified

BY ROD SALLEE
Chronicle Staff

Authorities have identified Richard C. Hembree, 13, of 1426 W. 21st St. in the Heights as one of 17 youths whose bodies were found in a Southwest Houston boat shed.

So far, 14 of the 27 bodies found at three burial sites have been identified.

Hembree, the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. William Green, was last seen Oct. 2, 1972, with Wally J. Simoneaux, 13, whose body was found in the same grave.

Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, said Hembree was gagged, strangled and shot once in the head with a .22-caliber bullet.

He was identified by his stepfather, an electrician, from "the shape of the boy's skull and jaw, and clothes found near the grave" at 4500 Silver Bell, Jachimczyk said.

Mrs. Green, 53, said she knew little about Richard's friends.

However, she said, the boy did know some of the Heights



RICHARD HEMBREE

youths known or believed to be victims of sex-torture slayings over the past three years.

She said Richard failed to return home from Hamilton Junior High School last Oct. 2, but she later learned that he was at Simoneaux's house.

Mrs. W. J. Simoneaux of 3405 N. Shepherd, Wally's mother, said she saw Richard on the porch with Wally but later noticed the boys were gone.

Simoneaux's parents said they thought Wally was spending the night with Richard. Neither youth was reportedly seen again.

Hembree was reported missing to Houston police on Oct. 5, police say.

Police discovered 17 bodies in the boat shed, four more in the piney woods near Broadus in East Texas and six on Boliver Peninsula beaches near High Island.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, of 325 W. 327th and David Owne Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd. each have been indicted here on charges of murder in four of the slayings.

Brooks also was charged Thursday in San Augustine County with murder in the deaths of four youths whose bodies were found near Broadus.

The youths are Billy Ray

(See ANOTHER, Page 2)

Both suspects are in Harris County Jail.

Daughterty said Brooks and Henley may not stand trial in San Augustine County, unless it is proven the killings took place there.

The youths say most of the 27 known victims were killed by Dean Arnold Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. electrician.

Henley said he shot Corll to death in self-defense after a night-long sex and paint-sniffing party with two other youths at Corll's home, 2020 Lamar in Pasadena, he said.



DR. JACHIMCZYK

Tedious job of identifying bodies called difficult task

Post 8-29-73

By BILL COULTER
Post Reporter

Since the first of 27 bodies were unearthed Aug. 8 in the gruesome mass slaying, tempers have flared and a few nightmares have occurred to those saddled with the tedious job of identifying the remains.

"It's overwhelmed us. It has really put a strain on all our facilities," said Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner.

Jachimczyk and his two assistant pathologists, Dr. Ethel Erickson and Dr. G. Sheldon Green, have used every known method to identify the remains, while carrying on

the usually heavy morgue work of daily accident and homicide victims.

So far, they have managed to positively identify 14 of 27 victims in the alleged torture slaying ring.

And as the grim work has gone on in the morgue lo-

Please see Identifying/pg 19A

From page 1

cated in the basement of Ben Taub Hospital, anxious parents and relatives have flooded Jachimczyk's office and law enforcement agencies with tips and clues to identify their missing boys who might be among the dead.

One out-of-state mother notified Jachimczyk of her missing son's abnormal spine.

"We haven't found it, but we're looking for it," said Jachimczyk.

Of the 14 identified, none were easy, said Jachimczyk, but the remaining 13 are even more difficult.

"Seven of the bodies are identifiable if we can get a point of reference," said Jachimczyk.

These are the remains of youths who had enough dental work done to be positively identified by dental charts or X-rays.

But without the correct dental records to begin with,

Jachimczyk has nothing to compare with.

Jachimczyk praises his staff. He said he knows he has "driven them up the wall" on occasions.

And the usually affable Jachimczyk admits to losing his temper a few times.

"It's not like me, you know," he said.

The job has produced other effects, Jachimczyk said.

"In 20 years this is the first time I have been having nightmares about my work," he said. "I know Dr. Erickson has had nightmares, too."

Is there the possibility that some of the remains will never be identified?

"I'm always the optimist," he said, "I believe we are going to get to the end."

"Everything is being done that can possibly be done. It is always possible that we may reach a deadend street but so far we have not reached any dead streets," he said.

Appeal Due On Henley Test Ruling

Chronicle 8-30-73

Austin (AP) — Lawyers for Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. say they will appeal the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals' refusal to block a psychiatric examination for the Houston youth.

Henley, 17, had been indicted in eight of 27 known sex-torture slayings in the worst recorded multiple murder case of this century.

The court took just over an hour Wednesday to overrule Henley's attorney's request that it prohibit the psychiatric examination ordered Aug. 22 by State Dist. Court Judge William Hatten of Houston.

Appeal Planned

Ed Pegelow, one of Henley's three lawyers, said the decision would be appealed either to the Texas Supreme Court or to a federal court in Houston.

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance of Houston had sought Hatten's order so he could obtain an early reading on Henley's competence to stand trial and possible evidence with which to rebut a defense of insanity.

Hatten ordered Harris County Sheriff Jack Heard to take Henley to the county's psychiatric unit for an examination outside the presence of either defense or prosecution attorneys.

Pegelow said the next step might be an appeal to the Texas Supreme Court, although that court has jurisdiction only in noncriminal cases.

Called Civil Matter

The court might have jurisdiction over the sanity matter, Pegelow said, because the issue of a person's present mental competence is a civil matter.

Corll's ex-stepdad died in May, '72

Post 8-27-73

A Houston couple with whom the former stepfather of Dean Corll spent his last night in Houston said Sunday their old friend died in May, 1972.

They learned of Jim West's death from one of his aunts.

She wrote the couple about two months after they sent a Christmas card to West's mother hoping to locate him.

"Let us know where you are," they asked in the card. The couple had not seen West since he left Houston in June, 1969. They had previously lived in the same apartment house as West and frequently shared meals with several other couples.

"He (West) was always footing the bill. If the women would clean up, he would cook," they recalled.

The aunt wrote that he had died of "everything." They remembered that he was a diabetic with liver and other problems who was frequently ill while in Houston.

Another friend of West's also learned of his death through the mail.

A retired railroad brakeman said Sunday that his last letter to West a few months ago was returned with the word, deceased, written on it.

He and the couple responded to recent concern expressed by five other old friends over the whereabouts of West.

Their anxiety was brought into sharp focus by the mass murders uncovered after Corll's death Aug. 8.

Wayne Henley Jr., 17, and David Owen Brooks, 18, have accused Corll of being the leader of mass sex and murder ring.

Henley and Brooks have each been indicted on four counts of murder in the slayings by a Harris County grand jury and are charged with the same number of murders each in San Augustine County by Sheriff John Hoyt.

A total of 27 bodies have been recovered from a boat shed in southwest Houston, near Sam Rayburn Reservoir, and on High Island. Fourteen bodies have been identified.

Henley's lawyers claimed Texas law gives the courts no right to order a psychiatric examination unless and until the insanity issue has been raised by the defense.

And they claim they have never raised the issue, although defense lawyer Charles Melder of Houston has said insanity would, indeed, be Henley's defense. They hope, however, for acquittal on grounds that police obtained statements from Henley unconstitutionally. They contend no attorney was present when Henley waived his right to remain silent, told police where to find 27 graves of teen-age boys and young men and gave officers other statements.

Killings Revealed

The killings came to light Aug. 8 when Henley called police and told them he had killed Dean Corll, 33, whom he portrayed as the mastermind of the sex-torture slayings.

David Owen Brooks, 18, also has been indicted in connection with four of the slayings.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
Page 2, Section 1

Thursday, August 30, 1973
★★

Corll's Mother Mysteriously Receives Book

BY BEVERLY HARRIS
Chronicle Staff

In her open letter Aug. 19, to families of missing youths and to Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, and David Owen Brooks, 18, Mrs. Mary West, mother of Dean Arnold Corll asked:

"Where are his clothes and the books I sent him on 'Help for Today' and 'This Thing Called You' by Ernest Holmes?"

Wednesday Mrs. West reported receiving the book "This Thing Called You" in the mail at her home in Manitou Springs, Colo. It was in a plain brown envelope with no return address, postmarked Houston and dated Aug. 27.

She says it is the same book she had given her son, because it bears the inscription in her handwriting:

"To Stanley and Dean Corll from your 54-year-old mother who has just begun to live. Man's greatest discovery was when he discovered himself. After that all else will be added to you. Read this book and help me make up for the things I was too ignorant to teach you when I was in my 20s. I love you both, Mother."

Mrs. West said the appearance of the book "is a very strange thing." She has no idea who might have sent it.

She originally gave the book to Stanley, Dean's younger brother, three-years ago while he was visiting her and asked him to take it to Dean in Houston. She says it wasn't Stanley who returned the book because he "is no longer living in Houston."

In an earlier statement Mrs. West said that Dean had been dating a longtime family friend in Houston. She doesn't think this friend returned the book, either, because "Betty would have included a note."

Whoever sent the book apparently did not know Mrs. West's address. The package was addressed simply: Mrs. Mary West, Manitou Springs, 80829.

No other personal effects of Dean Corll's which Mrs. West believed are missing have been returned to her.

Henley and Brooks have been indicted on four murder charges each in Harris County in sex-torture slayings which have so far involved 27 victims.

Both Henley and Brooks have accused Corll of committing most of the murders.

Henley told police he killed Corll in self-defense after a sex and paint sniffing party at Corll's home in Pasadena.

Sex habits of Corll suspected

Post 8-30-73

One of Dean Corll's step-fathers told police Wednesday he suspected more than five years ago Corll was a homosexual, although "murdering never entered my mind."

The man, a Houston seaman who has since remarried, was the third husband of Corll's mother, Mrs. Mary West.

Corll's mother was aware of his suspicions, the man told the police.

The man said that while Corll was working in his mother's candy store in the Heights area, there were often a number of young boys with Corll after hours.

Corll did not appear interested in girls, the man said, and although he suspected his stepson had homosexual tendencies, his suspicions never went beyond that.

He described Corll as a person who "didn't have no temper." Corll was cool, collected and mechanically inclined, he said.

Corll has been implicated by David Owen Brooks and Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. as being the leader of a torture-slitting ring which in which at least 27 young boys were killed.

Henley shot Corll to death Aug. 8 in what he said was self-defense. Both Henley and Brooks have been indicted by a grand jury in with connection with some of the slayings.

The seaman, who told police he wanted to remain anonymous, said he heard Corll's mother once wish Dean would become interested in some girls.

Mrs. Mary West, the mother of Corll who now lives in Manitou Springs, Colo., responded angrily to her former husband's allegations.

Reached by telephone, Mrs. West said "What do you care whether he was homosexual or not? What difference does it make?"

"I don't know whether he was or not...but that doesn't mean you're homicidal."

Other members of Corll's family have also said Corll showed no homosexual tendencies. They claim there is no proof of such a tendency nor of Corll's role in the mass murders. And they have expressed the belief Corll may have been framed.

Harris County records show Mrs. West was divorced from the seaman in the spring of 1968 and her name restored to West, the name of her second husband.

Chronicle 8/29/73

15th Sex-Murder Victim Identified

Authorities have identified the 15th of Houston's sex-murder victims as Homer L. Garcia, 15, of 5474 Darnell, a student at Jane Long Junior High School.

Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, identified the body Tuesday from dental records.

The boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Garcia, had been shot twice in the head and once in the chest and strangled.

His body was found earlier this month in a double grave near Lake Sam Rayburn in San Augustine County. The other body in the grave remains unidentified.

Two other bodies were found in San Augustine County, 17 in a boat shed in southwest Houston and six on Bolivar Peninsula beaches near High Island. All were young males.

Garcia disappeared July 17 after his father drove him to class at the Coaches Driving School at 7040 Mapleridge in Bellaire.

John Tomlin, supervisor of the school, said Elmer Wayne Henley, one of two youths under indictment in the multiple slayings, was registered at the school this summer.

"He dropped out after a few lessons," Tomlin said. He said he could not recall the dates Henley attended the school.

In a missing persons report filed with police the day after he disappeared, Garcia's parents said he had called home to say he was going to spend the night with a friend from the driving school.

They said the youth didn't identify his companion by name, but said he lived on Maple St.

When the youth did not return home the following day, Garcia reported him missing to police, he said.

Garcia said his son was not doing well at school and had been attending summer school. He would have been a ninth-grader at Long this fall.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Ghost Church, 6911 Chetwood.

Burial will be in Woodlawn

(See 15th VICTIM, Page 8)



HOMER L. GARCIA

FROM PAGE 1

Garden of Memories, 8010 Katy Rd.

Henley and David Owen Brooks, 18, have been indicted on four murder charges each in Harris and San Augustine counties.

The charges include the death of Garcia.

Henley and Brooks blame Dean Arnold Corll, 33, for committing most of the 27 murders. Corll was shot to death at his Pasadena home Aug. 8.

Henley says he shot Corll in self-defense after a sex and paint-sniffing party.

26/A

THE HOUSTON POST
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1973

Appeals court refuses to halt slaying suspect's mental test

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused Wednesday to stop a prosecution-requested psychiatric examination for Elmer Wayne Henley Jr., accused in eight of the Houston sex-torture slayings.

Ed Pegelow, one of the 17-year-old youth's three lawyers, said the decision would be appealed either to a Houston federal court or the Texas Supreme Court.

It took the court just over an hour to decide against the request by Henley's attorneys for a writ of prohibition blocking the psychiatric examination ordered Aug. 22 by State District Court Judge William Hatten of Houston.

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance of Houston had sought Hatten's order so he could obtain both a reading on Henley's competence to stand trial and possible material with which to rebut a defense of insanity.

Page 16/A

THE HOUSTON POST
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1973

Grand jury indicts Henley twice more

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

Indictments in Houston's mass murder case continued to stack up Thursday as a Harris County grand jury returned two more against Elmer Wayne Henley Jr.

The jury charged 17-year-old Henley with strangling Frank Aguirre, 18, on Feb. 25, 1972, and shooting and strangling Homer Garcia, 15, July 18, 1973.

The Harris County medical examiner's office identified the bodies of Aguirre and Garcia after the grand jury returned its last indictments in the case Aug. 23.

Thursday's action brought to six the number of murder charges against Henley in Harris County. Co-defendant David Owen Brooks, 18, has been charged here in four murder indictments.

THE PAIR ARE accused of participating in a homosexual murder ring which took the lives of 27 youths over the past three years and was allegedly master-minded by Dean Arnold Corll, 33.

Henley admitted shooting Corll to death after a party at Corll's house in Pasadena Aug. 8. The teen-ager told police the shooting was in self-defense.

The mass murder tale unfolded from the investigation of Corll's slaying. Henley and Brooks led officers to locations in Houston, near Sam Rayburn Reservoir and at High Island where graves of the victims were discovered.

Both Henley and Brooks signed statements given to investigators. The statements have been included in the evidence presented to the grand jury.

Garcia and Aguirre were the 15th and 16th—and latest—victims to be identified.

AGUIRRE, OF 932 W. Cottage, disappeared Feb. 24,

1972, while going to work at a fish and chips restaurant on Yale Boulevard. His body was dug up at High Island Aug. 13.

Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, county medical examiner, said Aguirre was identified through dental charts. He said Aguirre had been gagged and strangled.

The last person known to have seen Aguirre alive, Rhonda Williams, 15, was one of two young persons at Corll's house with Henley the night Corll was killed. Henley said the two were about to become new victims of Corll.

Garcia, of 5474 Darnell, disappeared July 18 after attending a driving school in Bellaire the evening before.

His mother told police that when the class was over he called to say he was going to a party at a friend's house, would spend the night there and would come home in the morning in time for work at a pizza place. He never arrived home.

GARCIA'S BODY was found in a double grave near Sam Rayburn Reservoir in San Augustine County. The other body in the grave has not been identified.

Jachimczyk said Garcia, also identified from dental records, had been shot twice in the head and once in the chest and had been strangled.

No witnesses testified Thursday before the grand jury.

Visiting Judge Max M. Rogers of the 2nd Administrative Judicial District in Huntsville set no bond on either of Thursday's indictments.

Henley and Brooks also face four murder charges apiece in San Augustine County. They are prisoners in isolated cells in the Harris County jail.

Mrs. Aguirre's search ends

Her son 16th mass murder victim identified

By SAM FLETCHER
and ANN JAMES
Post Reporters

The identification Friday of the 16th victim of a homosexual murder ring as Frank Anthony Aguirre of 932 W. Cottage finally ended his mother's 18-month search for her son. He disappeared while going to work Feb. 24, 1972.

Aguirre's body, the first found at High Island in Chambers County Aug. 13 during the second day of digging there, was identified through dental charts. County medical examiner Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk said Aguirre was gagged and strangled.

His mother, Mrs. Josephine Aguirre, said Friday, "I've tried to prepare myself for this but I was hoping they were wrong about him being dead. I just kept hoping."

Mrs. Aguirre said that hope was kept alive by reports she received that her son had been seen since his disappearance. She said his former girl friend, Rhonda Williams, 15, had told her she heard Aguirre was living in Houston after he had disappeared.

However, David Brooks, a suspect in the case, told police that Aguirre was killed

and buried soon after he disappeared.

Police said Miss Williams and Timothy Kerley, 20, were about to become murder victims at an Aug. 8 party at Dean Corll's Pasadena residence when Corll, 33, was shot to death.

The youth who shot Corll, Elmer Wayne Henley Jr., 17, told police Corll had killed

'I've tried to prepare myself for this ... I was hoping they were wrong ...'

several youths and began leading officers to mass graves.

Henley and Brooks are indicted in some of the murders.

Officers have quoted the two indicted youths as saying they supplied teen-aged boys

for parties at Corll's residences.

It was during these parties, the youths allege, that victims were sexually abused and killed, usually by strangulation or shooting.

The first known slaying is reported to have occurred in 1971, and the killings are alleged to have continued as Corll moved to various apartments throughout the city.

Police said Aguirre and Miss Williams worked at a fish and chips place on Yale Boulevard. She is listed on Aguirre's missing persons report as the last person to see him.

Mrs. Aguirre said her son and Miss Williams had wanted to marry. "I told him they both were too immature," she said. "I told him to finish school and get a better job."

Aguirre, who would have been 20 Aug. 22, was a senior at Waltrip High School when he disappeared.

"I've followed every lead I could find in trying to locate him," Mrs. Aguirre said. "I didn't know why he would leave home."

"He would always let me know where he was and would knock on my door to

let me know when he got home at night because he knew I would worry about him."

"He never mentioned Henley, Brooks or Corll," she said. "I knew Henley. I remember him playing with Frank and other boys when we lived on 28th Street when Frank was 15."

The task of identifying the rest of the 27 victims has been made harder in some cases by the mingling of bones where more than one skeleton was found in a common grave, Jachimczyk said.

At High Island, a backhoe was used to unearth graves and then shovels were used to remove bones. In at least one case it appeared that bones were simply apportioned more or less equally into separate trash bags because there was no one with expertise required to separate them properly at the scene, Jachimczyk said.

He said that the identification procedure is being done in a "very systematic, scientific manner and at the same time being as considerate as possible" of the feelings of the families.

Jachimczyk said the county



FRANK AGUIRRE

morgue has become a national clearing house for queries about missing youths. Dental charts, letters and police queries have come from throughout the country.

A suburban police department near Fort Worth even sent an unsolicited skull, he said.

The medical examiner said he could not give an offhand estimate of how many missing persons have been ruled out as possible victims but said there have been many.

D.A. Says Henley Killed Dean Corll in Self-Defense

Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright says the killing of reputed sex slayer Dean Arnold Corll was justifiable homicide and that no charges will be filed against Elmer Wayne Henley.

Henley, 17, told police he shot Corll, 33, in self-defense at Corll's home in Pasadena Aug. 8. Witnesses have corroborated Henley's version of what happened, Lambright said.

Henley and another youth, David Owen Brooks, 18, have said Corll killed most of the 27 victims in the multiple murder case here.

Henley has been indicted on six charges of murder and Brooks on four charges.

Lambright said he has "no intention of charging Wayne

Henley or anyone else with the death of Dean Corll."

"There is absolutely no question that it was a case of self-defense," he said.

Lambright said other witnesses have corroborated Henley's testimony that he shot Corll in self-defense.

Henley described Corll, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. employe, as a homosexual.

Henley said he and another youth, a 15-year-old girl and Corll sniffed acrylics out of a bag the night Corll was shot. Henley said he and the other youths passed out but that he was awakened by Corll putting handcuffs on him.

The other young man, Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, and the girl, Rhonda Louise Williams, 15, had been stripped naked and spread-eagled on a board

with holes bored in it for hands and feet, Henley said.

"He (Corll) woke us up and was tying us up and handcuffing us," Henley told police. "He said he was going to kill us all, but first he was going to have his fun."

Henley said he "sweet-talked" Corll and told him he would kill the other youths if he were released.

When Corll released him, Henley said he picked up a gun from a table and shot Corll.

Kerley and the Williams girl have testified before a Harris County grand jury in the case.

Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, has not released an autopsy report on Corll's death. Jachimczyk said his office has not had time to complete the report.

Post 9-12-73

Corll

witness

testifies

A young man who was present the night Dean Corll was killed testified before a Harris County grand jury for two and a half hours Tuesday.

Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, appeared voluntarily, according to Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright.

Kerley and 15-year-old Rhonda Williams were at Corll's Pasadena house Aug. 7 along with Wayne Henley, who has admitted shooting Corll.

Henley said they were having a paint-sniffing party and passed out. When he awoke, Henley claimed, Kerley and the Williams girl were handcuffed and Corll was handcuffing him.

Henley said he talked Corll out of handcuffing him by telling Corll he would kill the other two. He grabbed a gun and shot Corll instead, he said.

Corll's death led to the discovery of the bodies of 27 young boys in three burial sites. Henley and David Brooks have said Corll was the ringleader of the group. Henley, 17, and Brooks, 18, have been indicted in several boys' deaths.

The girl has already testified before the grand jury. This was Kerley's first appearance.

He declined to talk to newsmen when he left the grand jury room.

Examiner corrects body mixup

Post 9-11-73

By SAM FLETCHER
Post Reporter

Harris County medical examiner Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk Monday identified two mass murder victims mistakenly buried under other names in Georgia as David Hilligiest, 13, of 402 W. 27th St. and Gregory Malley Winkle, 15, of 407 W. 26th St. An official in the district attorney's office had disclosed

the identities over the weekend, but Jachimczyk said he withheld the official announcement at the request of the families in order to give them time to notify other relatives.

The remains earlier were mistakenly identified as Jerry Lynn Waldrop, 13, and Donald Edward Waldrop, 15, solely on information furnished by the brothers' father, Dr. Jachimczyk said.

He said county officials now are investigating legal procedures for returning the bodies of Hilligiest and Winkle to Houston and sending the Waldrop brothers' remains to Georgia for burial.

All four bodies were found close together in a boat shed leased by Dean Corll, suspected head of an alleged homosexual murder ring responsible for killing at least 27 teen-age boys. Jachimczyk

said all four had been strangled.

But Jachimczyk said Everett Waldrop of Atlanta, Ga., father of the slain brothers, evidently had a mistaken impression of the reason for the mixup in bodies. Waldrop has strongly criticized Houston officials in the wake of the murders.

"Apparently Mr. Waldrop has the impression that all four bodies were identified at

the time and the wrong two were released to him," said Jachimczyk. "But when the mistaken identification was made, the identities of the other two youths were not known."

He said, "We relied upon information he (Waldrop) gave us about clothing found near the bodies, their height,

weight, the shape of their mouths and dental fillings. All of these factors matched because the two pairs of bodies were very similar."

Jachimczyk said correct identification of all four youths was made through dental records later received by his office.

He said Waldrop did not seem angry with him when he notified him of the mistaken identification Friday.

"He obviously was surprised and shocked and shook," Jachimczyk said. "I was too when I discovered the mistake."

"His other concern was, 'Who's going to pay for this?' I assured him we will look into the possibility of defraying the cost of transferring the bodies."

"I personally feel we should help pay the cost for correcting the mistake, but should the money come from the state, county, city or medical examiner's budget?" Jachimczyk said.

This brings to 18 the number of victims identified from the 27 bodies uncovered.

"We still are working on identifying others," Jachimczyk said. "We may reach a deadend in naming the victims but it hasn't come yet. We will continue sorting and will start concentrating on information furnished on out-of-town youths."

David Brooks, 18, and Elmer Wayne Henley Jr., 17, who led police to the graves, are under indictment for murders of some of the youths.

The disclosures came after Henley said he killed Corll, 33, in self defense.

County Delays Decision

Who Will Pay For Return Of Teen Bodies?

Chron 9-11-73

BY RAD SALLEE
Chronicle Staff

Commissioners Court members said today Harris County should pay to ship the mistakenly identified bodies of four murdered youths to their true parents only if the county made the mistake.

County Judge Bill Elliott said the court will not authorize any funds "until it is determined who was at fault."

He and the four county commissioners agree that if the county were not at fault, it might be illegal for the county to pay, no matter how much they sympathized with the youths' parents.

The bodies of two youths believed to have been Jerry Lynn Waldrop, 13, and his brother, Donald, 15, were buried Aug. 18 near Atlanta, Ga., by the boys' father, Everett Waldrop.

But Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, announced Friday that the Waldrop boys' remains are still in the Harris County morgue.

The youths buried in Georgia were David Hilligiest, 13, of 402 W. 27th and Gregory Malley Winkle, 16, of 407 W. 26th from the same Heights neighborhood where the Waldrops once lived, Jachimczyk said.

All four bodies were among 17 unearthed from a southwest Houston boat shed.

Jachimczyk has blamed the mix-up on information provided by Waldrop.

"Mr. Waldrop drove here from Atlanta," Jachimczyk said. He described the clothing, height and dental records of his missing sons, and the two bodies fit his description. We released them to him on that description."

Later evidence showed that the two bodies were not the Waldrop boys, Jachimczyk said.

However, Waldrop claims he did not mistakenly identify the bodies. Jachimczyk's office, he contends, sent the wrong bodies to Georgia.

Mrs. Selma G. Winkle, Gregory's mother, said, "I don't care who's going to pay for it, but I want my son back."

Commissioner Tom Bass said, "If Harris County is at fault, we owe that man (Waldrop) an apology and should do something."

"But if it was not the fault of the county, the county is under no obligation to pay."

Commissioner Jamie Bray said, "I would recommend sending any request (to pay expenses) to the county attorney's office to see if we can do it legally."

Commissioner Bob Eckels agreed that the court should ask County Atty. Joe Resweber about the law involved.

"I'd go along with the attorney either way," Eckels said. "If the court could decide as it wished, I would be worried about what precedent we might set."

"I would not want to pay it unless some sort of obligation could be established."

Commissioner E. A. (Squatty) Lyons said he would approve paying the costs if the county attorney said it were legal.

Resweber said he has not been asked for a formal opinion on whether the county may legally pay the parents' bills.

He said Asst. Dist. Atty. Donald Lambright approached him Monday to talk the matter over informally, but that no advice was given.

"And I'm not going to give any opinion on whether Dr. Jachimczyk or anyone else was at fault," he said. "That calls for a determination of fact, and my job is to answer questions about the law."

"So far as I know, the county is not empowered to give tax money away."

Lambright said he is searching the law to find what the legalities are and what the Georgia authorities require.

"We'll see what the families want to do. They have a right to say where and how their children should be buried."

Robert R. Stivers, chief medical examiner for Metropolitan Atlanta, said he could see no red tape there that might obstruct exhuming and transferring the two bodies.

He said he had asked the funeral home that buried the youths there for an estimate on exhuming and shipping

back the bodies of Hilligiest and Winkle.

Waldrop has said he paid \$500 to have the two bodies transported to Georgia and \$2000 to bury them.

Stivers said he did not know who was at fault in the Houston mix-up. "If I released a body that was supposed to go one place and I sent it some place else, I think our responsibility would be to pay," he said.

Of 27 known victims in the murder case, 18 have been identified.

David Owen Brooks, 18, has been indicted here on four murder charges and Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, on six murder charges.

Brooks and Henley have said most of the 27 murders were committed by Dean Arnold Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. electrician. Henley told police he killed Corll in self-defense Aug. 8.

Dad Denies Wrongly Identifying Sons' Bodies

Chron 7-9-73

The father of two youths killed in multiple murders denied Saturday that he mistakenly identified as his sons two other victims who are buried in Georgia.

Everett Waldrop of Atlanta said he was sure he correctly identified his two sons, Jerry Lynn, 13, and Donald Wayne, 15, when he came here after the murders were discovered.

Waldrop said Harris County authorities were responsible for the mix-up that resulted in the bodies of two Houston boys being sent to Atlanta and buried.

"I didn't make a mistake," Waldrop said at his home in Atlanta. "I'm positive I didn't mix them up. This is just

another thing to show you what kind of people you've got down there."

Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, sharply disputed Waldrop's assertion about how the mix-up occurred.

"No, no, that is not the case at all," Jachimczyk said. "I'm sorry if he has that impression."

Jachimczyk said his office "relied on his (Waldrop's) information" in identifying the two bodies. He said Waldrop identified the youths from their "clothing, weight, dental charts and body description" and that "frankly, we didn't have the heart to say we'll

have to wait until all 27 are identified."

Waldrop was notified Friday by Jachimczyk that his two sons were mistakenly identified and two bodies buried near Atlanta were those of two Houston youths.

An official in the district attorney's office said the two bodies were those of David Hilligiest, 13, of 403 W. 27th and Gregory Malley Winkle, 16, of 407 W. 26th, both in the Heights.

Jachimczyk told Waldrop that the bodies of his sons are in the Harris County morgue.

Harris County authorities were trying to work out legal arrangements to exhume the bodies buried in Georgia and return them to Houston.

Jachimczyk said the bodies of the Waldrop youths would be sent to Georgia but that it was uncertain who would have to pay the cost.

"If there is any way the state of Texas can pay the costs, we'll try to do it that way," Jachimczyk said.

Waldrop said he spent \$500 to have the two bodies he believed were his sons transported to Georgia and another \$2000 for the burial in his hometown of Alpharetta, a suburb of Atlanta.

Waldrop said Jachimczyk told him in the telephone con-

versation Friday that "whoever released the bodies gave them the wrong ones." Jachimczyk denied that he told Waldrop the wrong bodies had been sent to Georgia.

Waldrop said he never actually saw the bodies he identified as his sons. He said he identified them through clothing, dental charts and descriptions of their body structure.

"I couldn't be wrong," he said. "They had identification in their clothing. Nothing like this could probably happen anywhere else in the world."

Jachimczyk said the identification Waldrop described included a number of articles found at the boatshed grave site where 17 bodies were unearthed. But he said the identification was not matched with specific bodies.

"We were always sure that the Waldrop boys were in the group," Jachimczyk said.

But he said his office relied on Waldrop for positive identification.

"The only other way to do it would have been for me to put up an iron curtain and wait until all 27 were identified before releasing them," he said. "And we just couldn't do that."

Waldrop, who moved to Atlanta from the Heights after his sons disappeared in January, 1971, has criticized police for failing to locate his sons.

He said he will consult an attorney Monday about possible legal action against the county in the identity mix-up of his two sons.

The bodies of Hilligiest and Winkle were found along with 17 others August 8 and 9 in a boatshed. Ten other victims were found in gravesites in the East Texas piney woods and

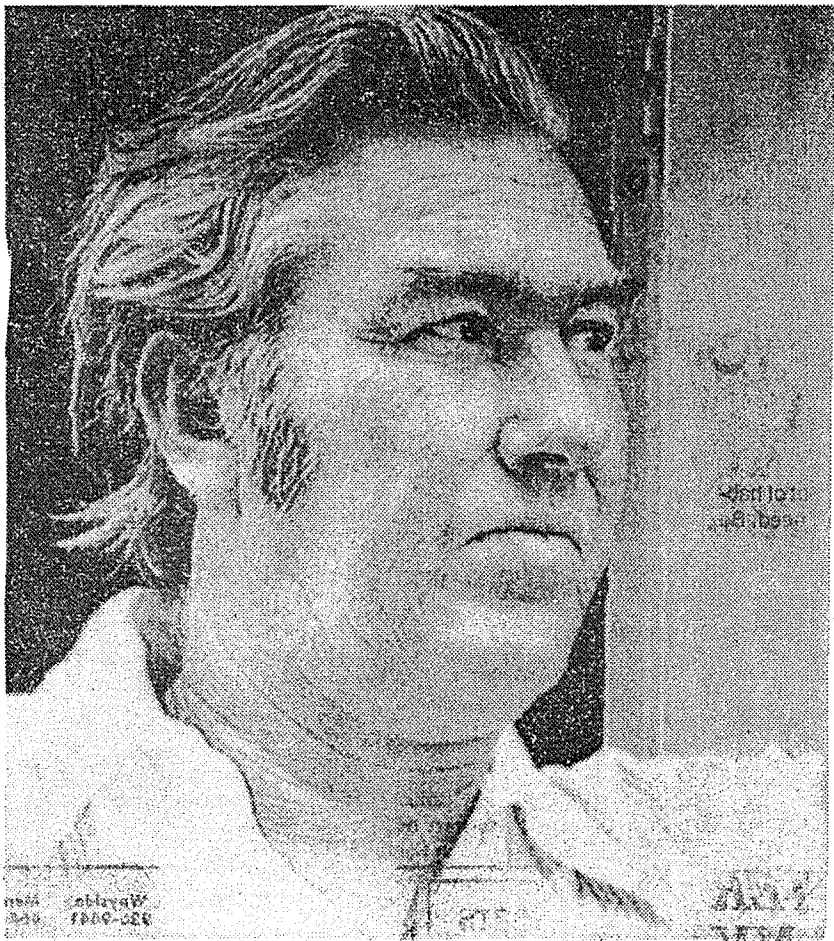
on the Bolivar Peninsula beach near High Island.

David Owen Brooks, 18, of 1445 Pech Rd., has been indicted here on four murder charges in the slayings. Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, of 325 W. 27th, has been indicted on six murder charges.

Brooks and Henley have told police that the 27 murders were committed by Dean Arnold Coril, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. electrician.

Henley told police he killed Coril in self-defense August 8 after a night-long sex and paint-sniffing party.

Of the 27 victims in the murders, 18 now have been identified.



FATHER SAYS HE DIDN'T MISTAKENLY IDENTIFY HIS SONS
Everett Waldrop, left, and Sons, Jerry Lynn, top, and Donald Wayne

UPI Telephoto

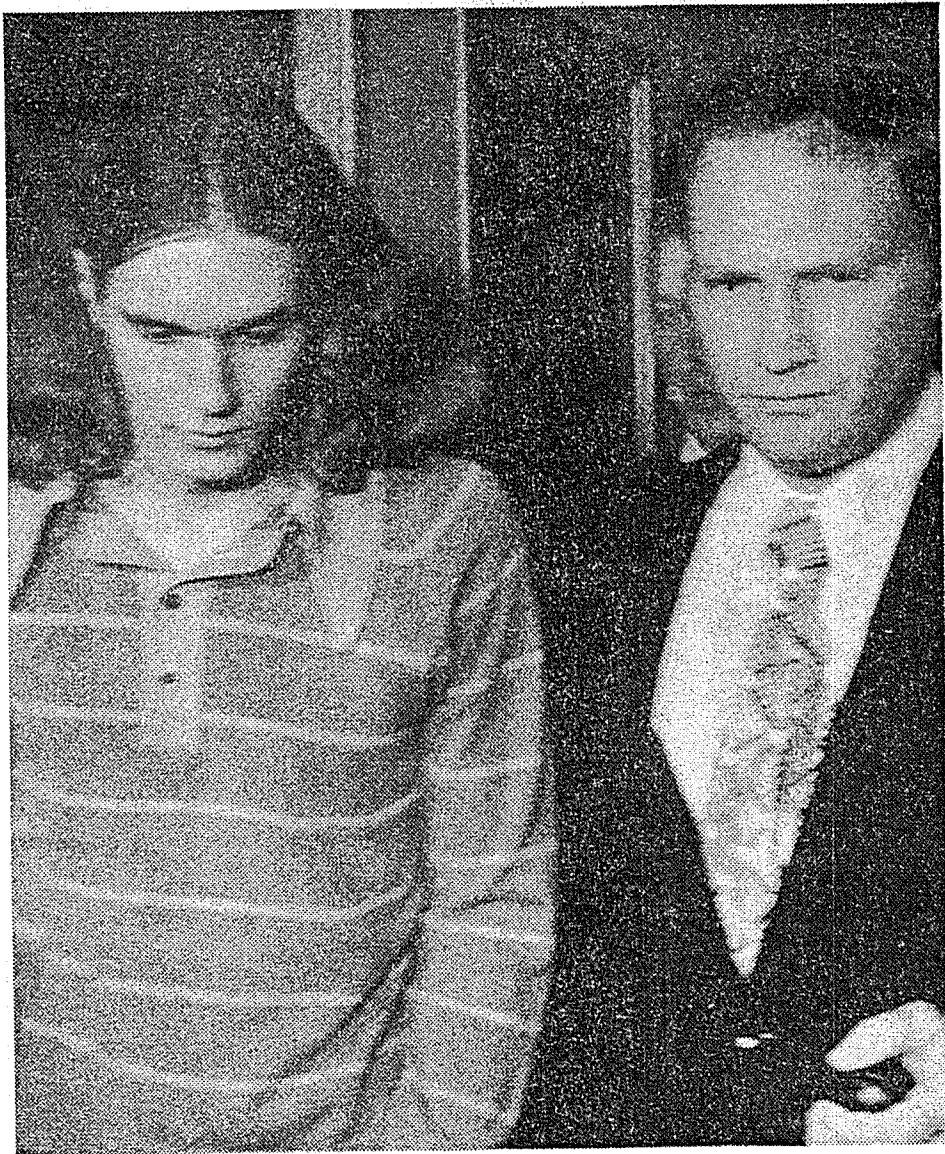


Photo by Sam Pierson, Chronicle Staff

CORLL DEATH WITNESS TESTIFIES

Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, of 820 Pinemont, at the Harris County courthouse Tuesday after testifying before a grand jury investigating Houston's multiple sex-torture murders. Kerley and Rhonda Louise Williams, 15, of 240 W. 23rd, were present when Dean Corll

was killed in his Pasadena home. Corll has been named by Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, and David Brooks, 18, as mastermind in the slayings. Brooks and Henley have been indicted in 10 of the murders. Kerley is escorted by Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright, right.

Bodies of Slaying Victims Mistakenly Buried Are Returned

The bodies of two multiple slaying victims, mistakenly buried as brothers in Georgia, have been returned to Houston and will be buried here Friday.

The two were David Hilligiest, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilligiest of 403 W. 27th St., and Gregory Malley Winkle, 16, son of Mrs. Selma G. Winkle of 407 W. 26th St., both in the Heights.

Their bodies were returned Tuesday.

Services for Hilligiest will be at 10 a.m. Friday in St. Rose of Lima Church, 3700 Brinkman. Burial will follow in Forest Park West Cemetery, 12808 Westheimer.

Graveside services for Winkle will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday in Woodlawn Garden of Memories, 8010 Katy Rd.

Harris County medical examiner Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk said the two bodies were originally identified by Everett Waldrop of Atlanta as those of his murdered sons,

Jerry Lynn, 13, and Donald Wayne Waldrop, 15.

Waldrop, who lived in the Heights at the time of his sons' disappearance, blamed Harris County authorities for the mixup.

The bodies of Hilligiest and Winkle were exhumed in Georgia Sunday and exchanged for those of the Waldrop boys Monday.

The Waldrop youths were buried in one casket Tuesday in Alpharetta, Ga., in the same grave in which Hilligiest and Winkle were buried Aug. 18.

The four bodies found buried in a boat shed in southwest Houston, were among 27 known victims of the sex murders.

Hilligiest leaves his parents; two sisters, Mrs. Norma Chersky and Mrs. Cynthia

Funeral Home To Bring Back Youths' Bodies

Chron 9-12-73

Harris County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk said today he has accepted a funeral home's offer to take the bodies of two Atlanta youths to their parents and return the bodies of two mistakenly identified Houston boys free of charge.

Jachimczyk declined to name the funeral home at the director's request.

The bodies of David Hilligiest, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilligiest, 402 W. 27th, and Gregory Malley Winkle, 15, son of Mrs. Selma Winkle, 407 W. 26th, were mistakenly sent to Georgia and buried near Atlanta Aug. 18.

The bodies were released at the request of Everett Waldrop of Atlanta, a former Heights area resident who, Jachimczyk says, identified them as his sons, Jerry, 13, and Donald, 15.

The brothers' bodies are still in the morgue here, Jachimczyk says. Waldrop blames the medical examiner's office for the error.

Jachimczyk said the bodies will probably be returned Sunday.

He said an investigator from his office will accompany one of the funeral home's representatives to Atlanta.

He said the bodies of Hilligiest and Winkle will be brought to the Harris County morgue and then released to the families.

Transfer of bodies planned

Post 9-13-73

A Houston funeral home will provide a hearse and expenses for transferring bodies of mass murder victims between here and Alpharetta, Ga., a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Pat H. Foley & Co. spokesman said the plan was to leave for Georgia Sunday and also to "pick up the tab."

The Harris County district attorney's office has estimated the cost of shipping the remains of Donald and Jerry Waldrop to Georgia and digging up and bringing back the bones of David Hilligiest and Gregory Malley Winkle at \$350.

Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, said no cost stemming from the mixup will be left to either the families of the boys or the county.

Jachimczyk said he had released the remains of Hilligiest, 13, and Winkle, 15, to Everett Waldrop of Alpharetta after Waldrop identified them as his sons.

In checking dental records later, Jachimczyk said he turned up the mistake. The remains of Donald, 15, and Jerry, 13, lay in the Harris County Morgue.

James Turner, a medical examiner's investigator, has volunteered his time to drive the Foley hearse, leaving probably Sunday morning and returning Wednesday, Jachimczyk said.

The funeral home will pay all transportation expenses and costs of opening and closing the Georgia graves, he said.

In Houston, Foley will receive the remains of the Hilligiest boy and Heights Funeral Home will receive the remains of the Winkle boy, Jachimczyk said.



GREGORY WINKLE

Kay, and three brothers, Wayne, Gregory and Stanley, all of Houston.

Winkle leaves his mother, father, Harold Winkle, and brother, Benjamin, all of Houston.

Attorney wants *Post 9-22-73* client examined

By TOM KENNEDY
Post Reporter

The attorney for David Owen Brooks, a defendant in four murder cases arising from a homosexual murder ring that killed 27, said Friday he plans to file a motion to halt the indefinite postponement of a psychiatric examination of his client.

Brooks, 18, and Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, the other defendant in the celebrated cases, were to undergo mental examinations by a team of doctors appointed by Dist. Judge William M. Hatten and headed by chief county psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Sher.

Henley refused to respond to the tests Wednesday.

"I found out this morning that Sher and his team postponed for an undetermined amount of time their psychiatric examination of David Brooks because of news media pressure," said Brooks' attorney, Ted Musick.

"That's the silliest thing I've ever heard of. Why that should influence them I don't know. My client is ready to answer questions. He has been advised to answer questions, and he will answer questions."

Musick said Brooks had not been approached by any doctor concerning psychiatric tests.

He said the delay stymies his case preparation since the

plans were to bring in seven nationally known psychiatrists and psychologists to conduct a similar examination of Brooks for the defense's case.

"If my client is found insane, then why should I bring our men in here?" Musick said.

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance said the purpose of the examinations was to determine if Brooks and Henley are mentally competent to stand trial.

"The motion I plan to file Monday in Judge Hatten's court will require the doctors to proceed forthwith with their examination," Musick said.

"Henley refused, but that has nothing to do with my client. He hasn't refused and he isn't going to refuse."

Henley and Brooks are being held in county jail.

Dr. Sher and the other county doctors were unavailable for comment. Under the court's rules the doctors will not be permitted to discuss the findings of the tests until the two young men come to trial.

The state will not fight a change of venue motion if attorneys for Wayne Henley and David Brooks want the trial moved from Houston.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright, who is heading the investigation, said this week that decision was based on the fact that a statement by Brooks was released to the press.

Henley Told Not to Answer Psychiatrists

Chron 9-20-73

An attorney for accused multiple slayer Elmer Wayne Henley says he instructed Henley not to answer questions by court-appointed psychiatrists.

Henley, 17, was taken Wednesday from city jail to the office of Dr. Benjamin Sher, consulting psychiatrist for Harris County. Henley refused to answer questions.

The examination was ordered Aug. 22 by Dist. Judge William Hatten, but no date was specified. The defense attorney, Charles Melder, said he was not informed that it was set for Wednesday, but had earlier advised Henley to remain silent.

Melder said Hatten's order only required bringing Henley before the psychiatrists; it did not require him to cooperate.

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance said, "Henley's refusal to talk tells us something about his sanity." He said Sher and other psychiatrists will also consider information from Henley's family and associates before forming an opinion.

Vance said he thinks Henley is within his rights to refuse to talk.

Melder said he will go to jail for contempt of court, if necessary, rather than advise Henley to talk to psychiatrists now. He says he believes that the state would gain information from such an exam that could help its case.

Meanwhile, Ted Musick, attorney for David Brooks, 18, also charged in the murders, said his client will "give them (Sher's team) a full examination and do it right." Brooks faces Sher today, Musick said.

Brooks' defense, Musick said, will be based, at least in part, on a plea of insanity.

Musick said "a team of the best psychiatrists, from all over the country," will examine Brooks for the defense in about three months.

Brooks Exam Is Described 'Satisfactory'

Chron 9-26-73

A court-appointed team described its first psychiatric examination of accused multiple slayer David Owen Brooks, 18, as "satisfactory," Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright says.

The team — two psychiatrists and a psychologist — met with Brooks for three hours Monday at Baylor College of Medicine, where they are faculty members.

They were not available for comment. But Lambright quoted them as saying the session went as planned.

Lambright said he could not elaborate.

Brooks is under indictment in four of three recent slayings of 27 young males here.

Ted Musick, Brooks' attorney, has said his client would cooperate in the examinations.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, accused in six of the murders, recently refused to answer a psychiatrist's questions on advice of his attorney.

Suspect in mass slayings given mental examination

Post 9-25-73

A psychiatrist and a psychologist examined David Brooks for about three hours Monday morning and afterwards termed the session "satisfactory."

Brooks, indicted on murder charges stemming from the mass murders case, was examined by Dr. Benjamin Sher, consulting psychiatrist for Harris County, and psychologist Dr. Jerome Brown. The tests were ordered by Dist. Judge William M. Hat-

ton to determine if Brooks is competent to stand trial.

Results of the tests must be kept secret until the trial. The "satisfactory" description apparently meant Brooks did not refuse to talk to the examiners, as Elmer Wayne Henley did last week.

Henley is also indicted for murder in the same case.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright said Monday that further examinations of Brooks will be conducted.

Henley, Brooks arraignment today

Post 10-8-73

Elmer Wayne Henley and David Owen Brooks, two youths accused of murder in connection with the slaying of 27 boys in the Houston area, are scheduled to be arraigned Monday.

Henley, 17, and Brooks, 18, are expected to enter pleas before Dist. Judge William M. Hatten. Hatten may set a trial date.

Brooks' lawyer, Ted Musick, has said he will ask the judge for a change of venue in the case which shocked Houston and the world when it broke Aug. 8.

A Harris County grand jury has returned six murder indictments against Henley and four against Brooks involving eight of the 18 victims who have been positively identified so far.

The mass murder came to light when Henley telephoned police and said he had killed Dean Corll, 33, in self defense during a paint-sniffing party in Corll's Pasadena home.

The youths allege that Corll was the leader in a homosexual torture-slaying ring and that they procured boys for him.

Wants Trial in El Paso

Lawyer Fears for Life
Of Henley If He's Freed

Should Elmer Wayne Henley go free, there is a "good possibility" that he might be killed by someone seeking revenge, Will Gray, Henley's attorney says.

Gray, fighting for a six-month delay in the trial due to the publicity given the case here, said that if the continuance is denied he will seek a change of venue to El Paso, "because that's the farthest away (in Texas) we can get."

Gray said he did not blame the news media. He said, "The primary violation came from the DA's office and the police who allowed the release of all this stuff," and permitted Henley to talk to newsmen before he had consulted a lawyer.

In another development in the Henley case attorney Charles Melder dropped from the defense team in a trial strategy dispute with Henley's other two attorneys.

The other lawyers are Gray and Ed Pege-low.

"I didn't want Henley to take the stand," Melder said. Henley began testifying Thursday.

"I could see Henley doing nothing but incriminating himself (by testifying)," Melder said.

"I was also opposed to the motion for continuance," he said. That motion will be heard by Dist. Judge William M. Hatten after he rules on a current motion to suppress Henley's written or oral confessions.

By JON STANDEFER
Post Reporter

"I think it would be the biggest mistake to approach this case any differently than any other murder case. You just give it everything you've got. I don't think that rule ought to be varied—ever."

What Don Lambright was talking about, of course, was not just "any other" murder case.

It was the mass murders of 27 young boys.

And Lambright is a featured player in the drama. He is the assistant district attorney heading the investigation. At the age of 30, he is involved in the biggest case of his career.

From all indications, Lambright can handle it. A clean-cut, serious young man whose father is a lawyer and whose two brothers are in law school, he gets high marks from just about everyone on his talent and ability.

District Attorney Carol Vance will prosecute Wayne Henley and David Brooks on the murder charges, but he has turned over the investigation to Lambright.

"He's just an extremely capable and talented lawyer," says Vance. "He is a very persuasive lawyer in the courtroom. And he is very good at getting right to the heart of the problem and screening out a lot of irrelevant material."

Attorney Jimmy James, who was a prosecutor in Vance's office when Lambright came to work there six years ago, agrees:

"I think Don is — if not the best — then right at the top of the ladder in the DA's office as far as talent goes."

And fellow prosecutor Allen Stillely says Lambright's

strong points are that "he is very thorough and prepared and sincere, and I think this comes through to the jury."

Thoroughness is not a luxury in this case. There are a thousand leads to follow up, and Lambright is spending a lot of weekends, answering phone calls at his Cypress home concerning the case.

"There are so many people to talk to," he says.

Though Lambright refuses to complain, he is obviously burdened by the fact that there is not even a single investigator from the district attorney's office assigned to the worst multiple murder case in the nation's modern history. So Lambright is pretty much on his own to coordinate the work of the other agencies involved, principally the Pasadena and Houston police department homicide divisions.

Lambright shrugs off his role in a world-wide news event. He says he doesn't feel any pressure.

"There was some at first. I couldn't conceive of how anything like this could happen. We're not talking about Nazi Germany. We're talking about the United States. We're talking about Houston, Texas. We're talking about the Heights, where I grew up."

Mississippi-born, Lambright moved to Houston when he was about three. He went to Hamilton Junior High—where many of the victims in the mass murder case attended school—and was an All-City end his senior year at Reagan High in 1960.

His coach that year, Al Neveu, remembers him as "an ideal student and an ideal football player—I thought an awful lot of the youngster."

Lambright married his high

school sweetheart two years after he graduated and then zipped through college and law school at the University of Houston in just five and a half years.

"I had a working wife," he said with a smile.

Lambright has two young sons, likes sports cars, raises English bulldogs and fights a constant losing battle trying to quit smoking cigarettes.

He also likes golf, though his father says Don plays "lousy."

Around the district attorney's office, Lambright is known as "Spot"—a nickname derived from one of several origins, depending upon who's telling the story. Most assume it has to do with a bald area on the crown of the sandy-haired Lambright's head.

Lambright says, however, that the true story is that his sons named a puppy "Ernst" after a former prosecutor in the district attorney's office. In retaliation, the prosecutor—who already had a dog named "Spot"—nicknamed Lambright after his dog.

While Lambright has a good sense of humor, he has taken to heart some advice his father gave him years ago: Be a gentleman, but be a tiger in the courtroom, because your clients don't pay you to be a creampuff.

Hardly a creampuff, Lambright has three death penalty convictions to his record. Though he does not brag about them, they are a measure of his ability. Says Al Stillely:

"It's just pretty doggone tough to get a jury of 12 folks to agree on a death sentence."

On the other hand, he is not without compassion. His father says Don once confessed



Don Lambright at work

—Post photo

to him, "Daddy, you know, if I thought any one of those three people would be executed, I think I'd just quit."

As it stands now, the death penalty will not be an issue in this case.

"The Legislature in its wisdom (under the new capital punishment law) did not allow for the death penalty in mass or multiple murders."

He explains that the state would have to prove murder in connection with robbery or kidnap or some other specific crime under the new law.

"And the witnesses are dead."

Lambright is expecting to get in on the trial portion as well as the investigation. He says, "We could be ready to go to trial by November."

Whatever happens, Lambright says he is happy where he is: "I have the best job in the world."

As the trial nears, tension will undoubtedly build. Don Lambright doesn't foresee any problem.

"You don't have time to worry about it."

Assistant DA grew up in the Heights

Sept 9-30-73

Lawyer, 30, probing mass murders

Father Convinced Body Is Not That of His Missing Son

BY KING WATERS
Chronicle Staff

The grieving father slapped the arms of a beige chair in conviction and said the body of his son, named as a victim in the multiple sex-slayings here, has not been found.

The father, Walter Scott, 48, of 927 W. 25th in the Heights, said he does not believe that the body of his 17-year-old son, Mark, lies in the Harris County morgue.

Statements in the murder case identify Mark Scott as one of the 27 victims found in three gravesites in August.

Only 20 of the victims have been identified.

Scott said Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, county medical examiner, believes one of the remaining seven bodies is Mark's.

This body was the twelfth found in a southwest Houston boatshed. Other bodies were uncovered on a beach near High Island and in a forest near Lake Sam Rayburn.

The boatshed, which yielded 17 bodies, was rented by Dean Arnold Corll, 33, shot to death Aug. 8 by Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, after an all night paint-sniffing party.

Henley and David Owen Brooks, 18, both from the Heights, are under indictment on 10 charges of murder in the slayings.

The pair led lawmen to the gravesites, saying Corll, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. electrician, killed most of the boys and young men.

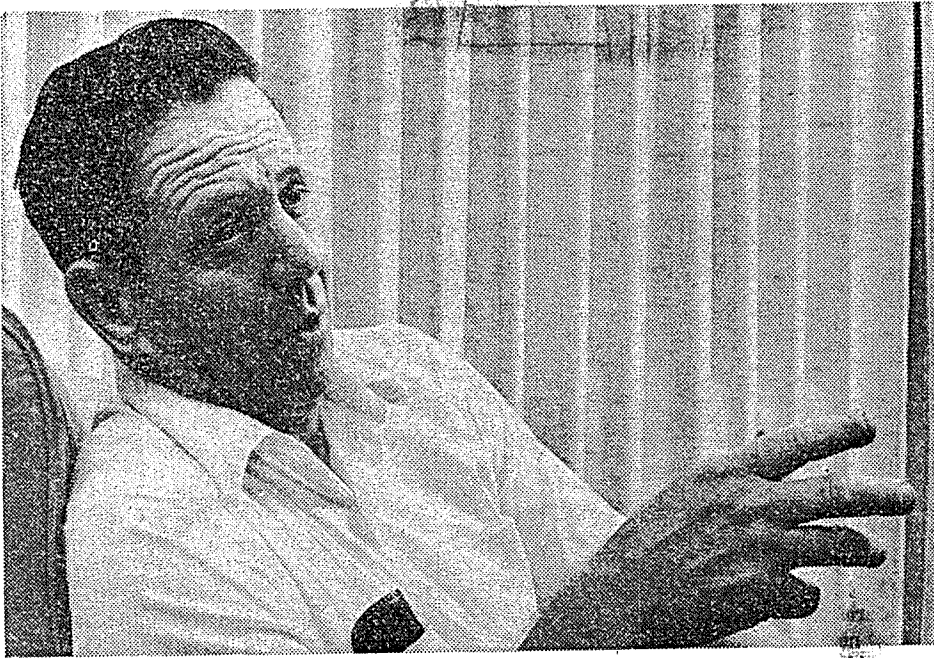


Photo by David Nance, Chronicle Staff
VICTIM'S FATHER DISPUTES MEDICAL EXAMINER
Walter Scott, 48, Says "There's No Way" It Can Be Our Son

"Mark Scott was killed at the Schuler street address," Brooks told police. Brooks said he was present during the slaying.

But, Scott said, the task of identifying Mark's remains has become almost impossible.

"Mark is difficult to identify because he had no broken bones except for a broken left thumb," Scott said. "But the left thumb on the twelfth body is missing, perhaps lost in the boatshed dirt."

Mark Scott disappeared April 20, 1972, when he told his parents he was going to Mexico with a friend, Robert Scott, no relation.

He was to return April 24. On April 25, Scott said he received a postcard from his son, saying that he was working in Austin.

Scott said that was the last they heard until they read Brooks' statement in The Chronicle.

"Mark had a knife and he tried to get Dean," Brooks

said. "He (Mark) swung at him with a knife and caught Dean's shirt and barely broke the skin."

"He (Mark) still had one hand tied and Dean grabbed the hand with the knife. Wayne ran out of the room and got a pistol, and Mark just gave up."

Scott says he has been unable to locate Robert Scott, the boy who was to accompany Mark to Mexico, to find out if Mark ever left Houston.

Scott said Jachimczyk told

him the twelfth body has a broken left collar bone.

"But Mark never broke his collarbone," Scott said. "If he had, I'd have known it. He could not have stood the pain without medical treatment."

Scott said he sits for hours each day in the muted lamp-light of his curtained living-room, trying to think of how to positively identify his son.

"It does no good." Scott said he knows his son is dead.

"He's been gone a year," he said. "He'd have been here long ago, otherwise. Mark's housekey was found in a shoebox full of keys among Corll's effects."

"And Brooks and Henley mentioned him by name."

Brooks' statement said, "Wayne killed Mark Scott and I think that he strangled him. Mark was either buried at the beach or the boat house."

Mark never had dental work, Scott said, so there are no records to compare with the teeth of the twelfth body.

But an orthodontist compared a photograph of Mark smiling with the body's teeth and reported they were not the same, Scott said.

Scott believes Mark's body may be buried in a fourth gravesite. He says he has hopes that someone found Mark's black wallet and could give police clues to more graves.

Scott, a carpenter, has quit work to find the body of his son. His wife, Mary, works as

a switchboard operator.

Scott is there each time Henley and Brooks are brought into court.

"They always have 10 or 12 officers protecting them," he said. "They never bring them both into court at the same time."

Jachimczyk told the Scotts he was "95 percent sure the twelfth body was Mark," Scott said. "But there's no way it can be our son."

A white wooden swing stands in the Scott's front yard. Nearby is a small wooden windmill.

Scott said Mark helped him build their pebbled sidewalk.

"He was a good boy," he said. "He had a great heart."

Page 16/A

THE HOUSTON POST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1973

2 extra bones prompt search at High Island

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

Two extra bones which turned up among bodies of mass murder victims are causing investigators to renew their search at High Island, an assistant Harris County district attorney disclosed Thursday.

The discovery of an unexplained arm bone and pelvis bone from the common grave which held the bodies of Frank Aguirre and Johnny Ray Delome has already spurred one return to the scene, Assistant Dist. Atty. Don Lambright said.

Digging at the Delome-Aguirre gravesite Tuesday failed to "locate anything of

any additional value," Lambright said.

However, "until we are satisfied there is not another body there, we may well go back again," he said. The search will go on "until we have an explanation for the bone inventory. At this point, we have no explanation."

The number of bodies of teenaged boys to be identified in the Houston mass murder case reached 20 Tuesday, out of a total of 27 which have been found.

Elmer Wayne Henley Jr., 17, and David Owen Brooks, 18, are in jail on 10 murder indictments in eight of the deaths.

Henley began leading officers to gravesites in Houston. Please see High/page 21A

From page 1

San Augustine County and High Island after the Aug. 8 shooting death of Dean Arnold Corll, 33, whom Henley said he killed in self-defense.

Henley and Brooks told police Corll was the head of a homosexual murder ring. They implicated each other in the disposing of the bodies.

Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Harris County medical examiner, was cautious about saying for certain whether the bones are indeed extras, but said "it appears" they are.

He said he would not be positive until all the bodies are identified.

Lambright said he did not know when further digging would be carried out at High Island.

"I don't know that I'll personally go back down there again, but I know someone

from this office will," he said.

He was accompanied Tuesday by Chambers County Sheriff Louis Otter, a deputy sheriff, the police chief of Anahuac and Dr. Sheldon Green, assistant Harris County medical examiner.

"There is a unique possibility that one of the graders working the beach could have graded up the bones from another gravesite and carried them to this one," Lambright speculated.

Five gravesites were found over a half-mile stretch at High Island.

"We don't know whether the bones originated at this or another gravesite," Lambright said. "It could be possible that a body was buried three years ago. Or a body may have washed up there. Anything is possible."

He called the renewed work at High Island "a precaution."

Pair indicted at Nacogdoches in mass sex slayings

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — The San Augustine County grand jury returned four indict-

ments Friday against each of two youths already charged in the Houston mass sex slay-

ings.

The grand jury indicted Elmer Wayne Henley and David

Owen Brooks on murder charges. Both are from Houston.

The indictments involved four bodies found here. In all, officers discovered 27 bodies, most of them in Houston but some here and others in High Island east of Galveston.

Last mass slayings to be first for trial

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

The state disclosed Tuesday it would first go to trial in the Houston multiple murder case on two of the most recent deaths among the 27 victims whose bodies have been found.

Harris County Dist. Atty. Carl S. Vance said he would try Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. in the slaying of Charles C. Cobble, 17. He said he would try David Owen Brooks in the killing of William Ray Lawrence, 15.

"We think these will be very triable cases," Vance said.

Murder indictments against Henley and Brooks allege that Cobble died by gunshot and means unknown July 27, Lawrence by strangulation and means unknown July 10.

The two victims were both from the Heights — Cobble of 394 W. 27th, and Lawrence of 310 W. 31st.

Trial dates of Jan. 14 for Henley and March 4 for Brooks had been set earlier.

The Cobble indictment is one of six against Henley, while the Lawrence indictment is one of four against Brooks.

Henley led officers to gravesites in a Houston boat shed, where Cobble was found; in San Augustine County near Sam Rayburn Reservoir, where Lawrence was found; and on the beach near High Island.

The discoveries followed the Aug. 8 shooting death of Dean Arnold Corll, 33, whom Henley said he killed in self-defense. Corll was alleged to have headed a homosexual murder ring of which Henley and Brooks were members.

Henley's lawyer, Charles Melder, informed Dist. Judge William M. Hatten Tuesday that he planned to "raise insanity at the time of the offense as a defense" in his client's trial.

Melder had sought unsuccessfully to halt a prosecution-requested psychiatric examination for Henley, who prosecutors say has since refused to cooperate with doctors in their interviews.

Wednesday, January 9, 1974

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
Section 3, Page 3

Security Cost In Henley Trial \$15,000 Per Week

The cost to Harris County taxpayers of the approaching Elmer Wayne Henley murder trial has begun mounting as the sheriff's office announced special security personnel will cost \$15,025 per week during the trial's duration.

In a report to Commissioners Court, Sheriff Jack Heard says extra security is neces-

sary because of national attention focused on the trial.

Henley, 17, is indicted in the death of six youths during Houston's recent sex-torture slayings.

The report says the \$15,025 will allow 22 security posts to be staffed.

An additional \$3600 is needed for security equipment and supplies, the report says.

Preliminary hearings in the Henley trial are scheduled to begin here Jan. 28. Actual testimony, estimated to continue at least four weeks, is not expected to begin until at least mid-February.



BILLY BAULCH JR.

MICHAEL BAULCH

Heart-Broken Parents Identify 2 Dead Sons by Studying Skulls

BY KING WATERS
Chronicle Staff

The heart-broken truck driver stretched his upturned palms across the yellow kitchen table and asked: "Did you ever hold your dead son's teeth in your hands?"

The truck driver, Billy Baulch, and his wife, Janie, talked quietly about how they identified the skeletal remains of their two sons by studying the skulls.

Thus two more of Houston's 27 sex-torture murder victims became known Tuesday—leaving seven unidentified. The brothers were Billy Baulch Jr., 17, and Michael Anthony Baulch, 15, of 439 W. 16th in the Heights.

Their father curled his hand back and looked at it as though the teeth still lay there. "It's hard, you know," he said of the identification. "I had to do it."

"My wife had to do it." Billy Jr. left home May 21, 1972. Two days later he sent a postcard from Madisonville. The family never heard another word from him.

Michael disappeared last November. Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, county medical examiner, said Billy Jr. had been strangled.

The death cords, he said, were found around Billy's neck when his remains were uncovered on a beach near High Island in August.

Michael, shot twice in the head, had been buried in a southwest Houston boatshed, Jachimczyk said.

The boatshed was rented by Dean Arnold Corll, shot to death Aug. 8 by Elmer Wayne Henley Jr., 17, after an all-night party.

Henley and David Owen Brooks, 18, both from the Heights, are under indictment on 10 charges of murder in the slayings.

The pair, who led authorities to the victims' graves, say Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. electrician, committed most of the killings.

It was Corll who strangled Billy Baulch Jr. at an apartment on Schuler, Brooks has told officers.

Baulch told police he had asked Corll about Billy's disappearance, but that Corll claimed no knowledge of it.

Baulch said his sons attended Hamilton Junior High School with Henley and Brooks, and that Billy once sold candy door-to-door for Corll's mother.

Even with those facts, and with Brooks' statement to prepare them for a shock, Baulch says, holding their sons' bones was traumatic.

He sat with his wife in their darkened, old, but well-built, home Tuesday night, staring at pictures of their sons. "You don't know what they meant to me," he said. "You don't know what it's like."

Jachimczyk said he had been willing to testify to the brothers' identity, without the parents' positive identification.

"But now they know for sure," Jachimczyk said. "We showed them pictures of the boys' skulls and chins and asked them to identify the jaws and teeth. They did not have to do it."

"It was emotional. It wasn't pleasant, I tell you." Baulch said, "It wasn't like the others. We identified our own sons."

Pathologists had positively identified the 18 other known victims.

Jachimczyk said he had worked three weeks exclusively on the Baulch remains, comparing the skulls with photographs of the boys and checking their dental records.

He said Baulch recognized a belt buckle, found in Michael's grave, as one he had given his son.

"I knew it right off," Baulch said. "I didn't give it to him for his birthday or anything, I just gave it to him."

Mrs. Baulch, gazing vacantly across her dining room, began to weep. She hid her face in her hands.

Jachimczyk said the job of identifying the seven remaining victims is growing more difficult, that some may be only tentatively identified.

He does not want to call in other parents of suspected victims to identify bodies, he said.

"Bones," Mrs. Baulch said, "that's all they were."

Baulch slid his chair out from the table, turning to grab a handful of air and crush it in his fist.

"You don't know what it's like," he said, "for it to be this way."

"It's hell to bury them like that, to bury them bone by bone."

Services for Billy Jr. and Michael will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Heights Funeral Home, 1317 Heights Blvd. Burial will be in Woodlawn Garden of Memories.

Multiple Slaying Suspect Henley To Plead Insanity

Chron 10-23-73

Accused multiple slayer Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, will plead insanity at his trial, his lawyer said today.

Henley faces trial on Jan. 14 for the slaying of Charles Cobble, 17, one of 27 youths slain, most of them allegedly by Dean Arnold Corll, 33. Henley killed Corll in self-defense, authorities have held.

Charles Melder, Henley's attorney, said Henley will plead that he was insane at the time the Cobble youth was killed. The issue of Henley's current mental condition, Melder said, will not be raised. Henley also is charged in the deaths of five other youths.

Texas law prohibits conviction of a person adjudged to be insane.

Melder, who thus far has resisted efforts to subject Henley to examination by County Psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin J. Sher and other experts on mental ailments, said he now has no objection to such examinations.

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance said David Owen Brooks, 18, who also is charged in the slayings of four of the 27 youths, will be tried first in the death of William Ray Lawrence, 15.

Brooks' lawyer, Ted Musick, said he has not decided whether Brooks will plead insanity.

Melder's announcement came during a conference in the chambers of Dist. Judge William M. Hatten, in whose court both cases will be tried.



Henley's mother, left, and his attorney outside courtroom

Psychiatric Tests Begun For Henley

Chron. 11-8-73

A team of private psychiatrists hired by the defense has begun examining accused multiple slayer Elmer Wayne Henley to determine if he is competent to stand trial for murder.

Henley's attorney, Charles Melder, said he retained Dr. Exter F. Bell Jr., a psychiatrist; Dr. Jack Tracktir, a clinical psychologist, and Mrs. Eve Heatley, a psychiatric social worker, to make the examination.

Henley, 17, who is charged in six of the 27-sex-torture slayings of youths in the Houston area over the past several years, has refused to cooperate with court-appointed psychiatrists.

Dist. Judge William M. Hatten ordered examinations for Henley and codefendant David Owen Brooks, 18. Brooks' attorney, Ted Musick, has said he will seek a sanity hearing for his client, who is currently undergoing examination by court-appointed psychiatrists.

Melder said he has not decided whether Henley will plead insanity.

Henley and Brooks have blamed most of the slaying on Dean Arnold Corll, 33, an electrician shot to death by Henley in Corll's Pasadena home last August.

Mass sex-slaying suspects Henley, Brooks plead not guilty; trial dates set

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. and David Owen Brooks pleaded innocent Monday to all 10 indictments against them in the Houston mass murder case.

Clutching a Bible, a pack of cigarettes and a legal pad, Henley, 17, walked into a crowded courtroom under close guard and replied "not guilty" as Dist. Judge William M. Hatten asked him how he pleaded on each of six indictments.

Brooks, 18, was led empty-handed into court, where he was arraigned on four indictments.

Officers returned the pair separately to their isolated cells in the Harris County jail.

Henley and Brooks, both junior high school dropouts, are charged here in eight of the 27 deaths of teen-aged boys which came to light after the Aug. 8 shooting death of Dean Arnold Corll, the alleged leader of a homosexual murder ring.

Henley admitted shooting Corll, 33, during a party at Corll's house in Pasadena after, he said, Corll threatened to kill him and two other young persons

who Henley said had been sniffing paint spray.

The two accused youths led officers to graves of alleged victims of the Corll ring in a Houston boat shed, in San Augustine County near Sam Rayburn reservoir and at High Island.

Hatten set trial dates of Jan. 14 for Henley and March 4 for Brooks. Opposing sides are to meet with the judge before then to present pre-trial motions.

Ted Musick, Brooks' lawyer, maintained his intention to seek a change of venue for his client.

"I don't think he can get a fair trial in

Harris County," Musick said outside the courtroom.

Henley's lawyer, Charles Melder, has said he believes his client can receive a fair trial here.

Musick reiterated an earlier motion for the court to order that facilities for consultation with Brooks be provided.

Trying to talk to his client through a steel screen in the jail has made consultation a "laborious process," Musick contended. "Communication is very poor," he said.

The judge agreed with Dist. Atty. Carol S. Vance that a solution could likely

be worked out with the Sheriff's Department.

In discussing the communication problem after the Monday hearing, Musick said of his client that he "doesn't have the intelligence, he doesn't have the memory. He remembers very little. I just don't think he can contribute to his own defense."

Musick said he plans to ask for a sanity hearing for Brooks as the trial date approaches.

The lawyer mentioned during the course of the Monday session that he was concerned for Brooks' security. He cited a "scare" he said he had Oct. 2.

when Corll's father, Arnold Corll, turned up at the Baylor College of Medicine where Brooks had gone for a court-ordered psychiatric examination.

The older Corll, who works at Baylor, made no sign and the episode passed without incident, Musick said. Brooks had recognized the man through a glass, the lawyer said.

Musick asked for a swift completion of psychiatric examinations so that the defense may analyze the results.

Vance again urged that a "speedy trial" be held because of the case's importance.

Committee recommends guidelines

for first mass slaying trial

THE HOUSTON POST
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1973

A committee established to help coordinate the first upcoming Houston mass murder trial recommended a set of stringent guidelines Wednesday for the conduct of public and press during the proceedings.

The trial of Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. is scheduled to start Jan. 14 in the court of Dist. Judge William M. Hatten, with motions slated for the first two weeks and jury selection to begin Jan. 28.

The committee, appointed by Hatten

and headed by former Dist. Judge E. B. Duggan, said that jury selection alone could take from one to six weeks.

Henley, 17, is charged in six murder indictments returned after the discovery in August of 27 bodies buried around Southeast Texas. He is to be tried on a charge of murdering Charles C. Cobble, 17.

The multiple deaths were allegedly the work of a homosexual murder ring headed by Dean Arnold Corll, 33, whom Hen-

ley admitted shooting to death Aug. 8. He said he killed Corll in self defense.

Calling itself the Committee on Fair Trial-Free Press, the Duggan panel recommended to Hatten that all members of the public and news media, as well as lawyers and court personnel, be seated five minutes before each session.

All persons in the courtroom will remain in their places until recess, following two morning sessions of 75 minutes each and two afternoon sessions of 90

minutes each, the committee recommended.

Only in case of emergency should the officer in charge of courtroom security permit someone to leave during a trial session, the panel said.

Since the courtroom will seat only 164 persons, the committee recommended limitations on how many could attend.

It suggested reserving 64 spaces for the press, 50 spaces for the general public, 15 spaces for members of the bench and the bar and 10 spaces for Henley's immediate family and any spiritual adviser.

The committee recommended that the remaining 25 seats be allotted as the court may direct.

The Harris County sheriff's office will have the responsibility of protecting everyone attending or participating in the trial, the panel recommended.

Such responsibility should include searching and requiring identification of all persons entering the courtroom, it suggested.

The committee recommended that members of the press wear passes issued by the sheriff's office.

The five-man committee is coordinating its planning with County Judge Bill Elliott and Floyd L. Miller, county building superintendent, as well as with four of Sheriff Jack Heard's top staff members.

Hatten said further security arrangements still had to be worked out.

Judge in Multiple Slaying Case Hoping Security Effort Wasted

BY JOHN DURHAM
Chronicle Staff

William Morris Hatten, who will preside here over one of the most sensational murder trials of this century, says he hopes the elaborate security precautions he has made are not necessary.

Hatten will begin hearing pretrial motions Monday in the case of Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, one of two accused killers in the bizarre sex slayings of 27 youths here last year.

The other defendant, David Owen Brooks, 18, is scheduled for trial March 4 in Hatten's court.

Henley and Brooks blame most of the killings on Dean Arnold Corll, 33, whom Henley says he shot to death in self-defense during a sex and paint-sniffing party at Corll's Pasadena home on Aug. 8.

First of Six

Henley is indicted on murder charges in the deaths of six youths. Brooks is under indictment on charges of murdering four boys.

Hatten says getting ready for a trial as big as Henley's is "a complete losing proposition."

"If something happens, you didn't prepare," he says. "If nothing happens, you were extravagant."

With the aid of a five-member committee, Hatten has issued guidelines for the trial, including who will be admitted to the courtroom under what circumstances and a timetable for each day's activities during the case.

Special security personnel alone will cost \$15,000 a week. "We owe it to the defendant and everyone connected with



Photo by Larry Evans, Chronicle Staff
JUDGE WILLIAM MORRIS HATTEN
He'll Preside at Multiple Slayings Trial

the trial," Hatten says. "It would be great if you could say when it's all over that it was a waste of time, money and effort."

Still, he frets about the possibility of things going wrong. "In many of the big cases the judge comes out looking like a buffoon, a clown. The Chicago 7 case is the most obvious example."

Hatten, sitting in his chamber with his feet on the desk

and liberally sprinkling his conversation with expletives, says he is philosophical about the biggest case in his career.

"All you can do is the best you can and let the chips fall where they may."

"I'm 60 years old and don't need to make a reputation," he says. "My ambition is to retire with the reputation I have now, untarnished."

The judge says he still hasn't lived down the fact that

he pulled his daughter out of the University of Texas a dozen years ago, because she was required to read J. D. Salinger's novel, "Catcher in the Rye," in one of her courses.

Hatten says the novel was "immoral."

And he says he still hasn't changed his outlook one iota.

"The world has changed around me," he says.

The one aspect of his appearance that would seem to belie that statement is Hatten's silver hair, which flows over his collar.

It's earned him the nickname "The Hippie Judge" at the courthouse.

No Measure

He says the real reason he wears his hair long is that he learned by dealing with people both inside and outside the courtroom that hair length is no measure of character. And he wants to make just that point in his appearance.

A Houston native, Hatten is married to the former Dorothy Puls. They have five children and five grandchildren.

He attended St. Thomas High School and the old Houston Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1935.

He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Elks, Sons of Hermann and All Saints Catholic Church.

With Marines

Hatten served in the Marine Corps as an enlisted man in World War II.

He has been a member of the Harris County Juvenile Board since 1964, and gold-painted shovels from groundbreaking ceremonies for the Harris County Boys' School and Burnett-Bayland Children's

(See LONG, Page 2)

Long-Haired Judge Facing Biggest Case

Center hang on the walls of his office.

He served on the Port Commission from 1960 until Gov. John Connally named him judge of a domestic relations court here in 1964.

Gov. Preston Smith appointed him to the criminal bench in 1971.

After Divorce

Hatten says that moving from the domestic relations court, which handles, mostly contested divorce cases, to the criminal bench was like going from night to day.

"On the other side (domestic relations court), no one left the courtroom happy. Over here (in criminal court), you can sentence a man to 10 years in prison and he thanks you because he could have gotten more time. His lawyer's happy because the client's happy. And the prosecutor's happy because he's got another conviction," Hatten says.

Reviewing his career, Hat-

ten says his biggest previous case involved a Rice Institute professor of German, Dr. Heinrich K. E. M. Meyer, in 1943.

The federal government, Hatten says, was trying to revoke the professor's citizenship, obtained in 1935, by charging that he had secured it through false representations.

Hatten, who represented Meyer, says he lost the case in a federal district court, but won it on appeal.

Wartime

"Because of the climate of opinion and the war," the judge says, "the case generated front page headlines."

Hatten says he has read few stories about the upcoming multiple slaying case in his court, "possibly less than anyone else."

The judge says he makes it a practice not to read much about local criminal cases because of the possibility that they might fall in his court.

The Henley case did, and Hatten says that even though there are no precedents for such a case here, he hopes to be ready for it.

Short Calls Grand Jury Silly, DA Says It's Second-Guessing

BY JOHN DURHAM
Chronicle Staff

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance and Police Chief Herman Short sharply denounced a Harris County grand jury's criticism of their offices' investigations of the multiple sex-torture slayings here.

The grand jury said the investigations lacked "professional imagination, thoroughness and professional coordination."

Short ridiculed the grand jury, calling it "silly." "They don't know what they're doing," he said.

Vance said, "It's so easy to pick to pieces and second guess volumes of work done by so many different people. Hindsight is always 20-20."

The grand jury, which returned 10 murder indictments in the case, made its criticisms Thursday in a report to Dist. Judge Miron Love after closing its term.

The report said, "There appeared to us to be a lack of inquiry into a number of important details. Much of the problem in following up the wealth of leads was the lack of knowledge of what the district attorney's office had or

had not investigated. There was no feedback to the police in this case whatsoever."

Vance said, "We have been in constant contact with the homicide divisions of the Houston Police Department and the Pasadena Police Department and other law enforcement agencies and they have been very cooperative."

The case broke Aug. 8 when Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, told Pasadena police he killed Dean Arnold Corll, 33, in self-defense during a sex and paint-sniffing party at Corll's home.

Henley and David Owen Brooks, 18, later led authorities to the bodies of 27 youths buried in a Houston boat shed, near Lake Sam Rayburn in San Augustine County and on a beach on High Island in Chambers County.

Henley and Brooks blamed most of the slayings on Corll. The grand jury returned six murder indictments against Henley and four against Brooks.

The grand jury, during its investigation, heard testimony from about 10 witnesses and

(See SHORT, Page 16)

Grand jurors critical of mass slaying probe

Post 11-2-73

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

The Harris County grand jury which returned 10 indictments in the Houston mass murder case sharply criticized the police and the district attorney's office Thursday as the panel ended its three-month term.

The investigation of the 27 slayings "lacked professional imagination, thoroughness and professional coordination," grand jurors said in their final report.

Among their complaints was the charge that Houston police abandoned the investigation about Sept. 1, leaving unexplored "the possible involvement of others and related criminal activities."

One prosecutor in the district attorney's office pursued the case until Sept. 24, when he was joined by a full time investigator, jurors said.

"There appeared to us to be a lack of inquiry into a number of important details," the jury report continued.

"Much of the problem in following up the wealth of leads was the lack of knowledge of what the district attorney's office had or had not investigated," jurors said.

"There was no feedback to the police in this case whatsoever."

Harris County Dist. Atty. Carol S. Vance called the outgoing grand jury "a conscientious bunch but difficult to communicate with."

He said the tenor of the grand jury report stressed a few negative aspects and not the accomplishments in a difficult and complicated case.

"In something this complicated, it's so easy to pick to pieces the volumes of work

done by so many different people," Vance said.

Overall, the investigation conducted by law enforcement agencies and his own office has been "very thorough," he said.

The assignment of one prosecutor — Don Lambright — and later one investigator to do nothing but work full time on one case was unprecedented in his office, Vance said.

"We have been in constant contact with the Houston and Pasadena police departments, as well as with other agencies," he said.

Capt. L. D. Morrison of the Houston homicide division said as recently as Oct. 18 that the police were continuing to work on the case. He could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Morrison and two other city detectives were called into the grand jury toward the end of its term to discuss the case in detail.

The grand jury returned six murder indictments against Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. and four against David Owen Brooks much earlier in the investigation.

The pair allegedly participated in a homosexual murder ring which they have said was headed by Dean Arnold Corll. Henley shot Corll to death Aug. 8 in Pasadena in what he called self-defense.

A search unearthed the remains of 27 teenage boys and young men in Houston, East Texas and High Island.

Other grand jury complaints included a failure to reduce "pertinent oral confessions" to writing, a necessity of subpoenaing transcripts of testimony, the failure to produce a witness to the Corll-killing, Timothy Kerley, until

Sept. 11 and the late success of the jury in getting investigators to track down "many of the leads contained in the various police reports."

Vance said Kerley went into hiding after Aug. 8. When he was finally located, Lambright said, he asked the grand jury to issue a subpoena.

"We'll continue to investigate and run down any leads at all, even if they turn out to be wild goose chases, as many of them have," Vance said.

Grand jurors declined to comment on the report. Foreman Don Cherry cited the risk of "complicating the prosecution's conduct of the case."

Short Ridicules Grand Jury

FROM PAGE 1

spent dozens of hours with law enforcement officials.

In its report, the grand jury accused the Houston Police Department of halting its investigation of the case too soon and charged that the district attorney had assigned insufficient manpower to the case.

Police Capt. L. D. Morrison, head of the homicide division, says his office has not finished investigating the case.

"You don't ever end something like that. When something comes up you work on it," Morrison said.

Vance, who assigned one prosecutor to work exclusively on the case, said this was the first time since he has been district attorney that he has assigned an aide to work full time on one case.

The grand jury said: "Pertinent oral confessions taken very early in the investigation which were to serve as basis for indictments were never reduced to writing."

Vance said he regretted that the grand jury "would comment, in a public report, on certain factual matters such as the taking of oral confessions."

The jury said: "Transcripts of vital testimony taken before the grand jury were not transcribed by court reporters for weeks and then only after being subpoenaed."

Vance said, "The grand jury certainly didn't have to subpoena anyone (in an official capacity). They were all eager to cooperate."

The grand jury said: "Testimony from an eye witness to Corll's death was obtained through a grand jury subpoena after being put off for some time with the explanation that the witness had left town."

Vance said the jury referred to Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, who testified before the jurors on Sept. 11. The district attorney said his office suggested that the grand jury subpoena Kerley after police located him. "He (Kerley) was avoiding the police. We got him to the grand jury at the earliest possible time," Vance said.

The grand jury said: "We were not successful until late in our term in interesting either the district attorney's office or the police department in tracking down many of the leads contained in the various police reports."

Vance said, "That is not true. Our men spent most of their time running down one lead after another."

Asst. Dist. Atty. Don Lambright, assigned to the case, said, "Every one of the leads is being checked out and we're going to be months checking them out."

Jury foreman Don Cherry would not elaborate on the grand jury's report, saying he did not want to jeopardize prosecution of the cases against accused slayers Henley and Brooks.

J. A. Henderson, one of two grand jurors who did not sign the report, said he and the other nonsigner, Ray Whigham, would submit a minority report next week. Henderson would not reveal the nature of their report.

Vance said he appreciated the "conscientious efforts" of the grand jury, although he did not agree with their report.

"The tenor of the report stresses the negative aspects and not all the progress made in a very complex and difficult situation," he said.

"We will continue our investigation and continue to run down leads whether they turn out to be wild goose chases or productive," Vance said.

Henley's Attorneys Fighting To Throw Out Confessions

Chron 1-15-74

BY JOHN DURHAM
Chronicle Staff

Defense lawyers today continued attempts to prove that authorities illegally obtained confessions from accused multiple sex-and-torture slayer Elmer Wayne Henley, 17.

Will Gray, one of Henley's attorneys, said a witness at today's session of a pretrial hearing on a motion to bar the introduction of Henley's confession at his trial will be San Augustine County Sheriff John Hoyt.

"We just want to see if Hoyt

ever booked this guy (Henley) into jail," Gray said.

Statements Challenged

The defense contends that Henley gave his statements, in which he reportedly admitted killing nine of the 27 known victims of the murder ring here, while he was illegally detained and denied the right to counsel.

Gray indicated the hearing on Henley's confession could last a week. Jury selection in the case is scheduled to begin Jan. 28. Henley's lawyers say they are considering whether to plead temporary insanity at

the time of the crime, but Gray said Henley's present sanity is not in question.

Henley is perfectly able to assist his lawyers with his defense, Gray said.

Henley last August led officers to a gravesite near Lake Sam Rayburn in San Augustine County that yielded four of 27 victims in the bizarre case.

Henley, indicted in six of the slayings and facing trial first in the death of Charles Cary Cobble, 17, also took authorities to a boatshed in

(See HENLEY, Page 4)

FROM PAGE 1

southwest Houston where 17 bodies were found.

Henley and another youth, David Owen Brooks, 18, guided officials to six other bodies on a beach at High Island.

Brooks has been indicted on murder charges in the deaths of four of the victims.

He and Henley blame most of the killings on Dean Arnold Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. employe.

Corll Shot at Party

The case broke on Aug. 8 when Henley told Pasadena police he shot Corll in self-defense during a sex and paint-sniffing party at Corll's Pasadena home.

Attorney Samuel Plotkin, one of two witnesses who testified Monday at the opening of the pretrial motions, said he represented Henley during the early stages of the case.

Plotkin said he tried unsuccessfully on the day Henley went with officers to San Augustine County to talk with his client on the phone.

He said Sheriff Hoyt told him that Henley was sleeping and he did not want to disturb him. Plotkin said he was never able to complete a telephone call to Henley while Henley was in San Augustine County.

In fact, the attorney said, he never was able to talk to his client during the few days he represented Henley. He said Pasadena police had even refused to give his card to Henley.

Officer Quoted

Plotkin said he wanted to

talk to Henley to tell him not to say anything or sign any statements.

Plotkin said he made one trip to the Houston Police Department to try to see Henley, but an officer there told him his client was in the custody of Pasadena police.

The lawyer quoted the officer, Lt. Breck Porter, as saying that if Henley wanted to talk, it was fine with him (Porter). Porter said Henley was guilty and didn't deserve any mercy, Plotkin said.

Plotkin said he withdrew from the case because he suffered a heart attack two years ago and his family was worried about his health.

Vance to Try Case

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance, who is personally prosecuting a case for the first time in two years, said the state will offer witnesses to rebut defense claims about Henley's confession.

He would not specify which witnesses the state will call, but he said Henley's confession was voluntarily made and the defendant had been adequately warned before he made his statements.

The other witness who testified Monday, Henley's mother, Mrs. Mary Henley, 34, said her son had appeared sick to her when she visited him in the Pasadena jail the day after his arrest.

She said he was talking incoherently and was suffering

from hallucinations. He asked her to get him a doctor and a lawyer, she testified.

When she visited him on another occasion, she said, he complained that he was hurting all over.

Strict Security

The hearing is taking place under strict security measures in Dist. Judge William M. Hatten's courtroom.

Six deputies are posted in the courtroom and another dozen patrol the halls outside or are stationed at a booth where all persons going into the courtroom are searched for weapons, cameras and tape recorders.

No one except lawyers and witnesses participating in the case is permitted to enter or leave the courtroom while court is in session.

Lt. John Kiljan, coordinating security for the sheriff's office, said he had made arrangements to bring in dogs trained to detect explosives if they are needed. One dog made a brief appearance outside the courtroom but Kiljan said the dog and his trainer had come because of a misunderstanding.

Most of those attending the first session of the hearing were reporters or relatives of youths who were victims or are thought to be victims in the bizarre murders.

Only 20 of the 27 victims found at three gravesites have been positively identified.

Mother upset at trial

By KATHY LEWIS
Post Reporter

Post 1-14-74
"How can they sit there and talk about giving that punk sedatives? Sedatives. Sedatives, how could they give him . . . after what he did to all of those boys."

"He ought to be shot . . . take him out and do what he did to them," Selma Winkle, a mass murder victim's mother, sobbed outside the Harris County Courthouse Wednesday where pretrial hearings for Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. are taking place.

Her hysterical words turned to screams of agony as a nephew led her away.

This was the first time she had heard details of how her son, Gregory, might have been tortured, said her nephew, Robert Prudente.

"She told me she hurt very badly at his funeral, but the hurt was just as great, if not worse, as she listened this morning."

All morning she listened to testimony which grew progressively gory.

When Sgt. David Mullican testified that Henley told him about castrating some of the victims, Mrs. Winkle began to weep in the courtroom.

Her tears became uncontrollable when she left for the noon recess. She did not return for the afternoon session.

The sedatives for Henley, which she referred to in her outburst, also were a part of Wednesday's testimony. Mullican said physician gave Henley two mild sedatives in the San Augustine County Jail, because Henley had complained of being jittery.

'Small county' sheriff heard in Henley hearing

By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

Post 1-16-74

Square-jawed sheriff John Hoyt comes from a "small county community" and seemed proud to tell it to the folks gathered for Tuesday's pre-trial session for Elmer Wayne Henley.

Hoyt is head officer for San Augustine County, where Henley, 17, led officers to burial sites of four victims eight months ago.

He brought a rural touch to the courtroom, running his hand along the border of the judge's bench as he bluntly answered defense lawyer Will Gray's questions.

"You mean you don't even have any records of when a person is booked?" Gray asked.

"We have a small county jail," Hoyt replied with a hostile glare. "Our records aren't all that elaborate."

The dark-shirted lawman has been sheriff since November 1972. Hoyt, 48, has worn a badge for two decades, and, as he told Gray Tuesday, "Yes sir, I'm armed all the time."

"My deputies are armed all the time. They better be — or they'd be fired." Gray, seeking the "totality of circumstances" surrounding the events as Henley led officers around the Sam Rayburn Reservoir gravesite, wanted to know where all the spectators to the search came from.

"I often wonder myself these days," Hoyt replied. He later described talking to Henley

"like I would talk to one of my sons."

He said Henley was scared of the crowds. About 3,000 people were "milling around the jail" in San Augustine the night of Aug. 9, Hoyt said, and "they built us as the night went on."

Was he concerned? "Any time you've got a big crowd around a jailhouse in East Texas, you better be concerned," the sheriff replied.

Gray asked if he recalled Henley's lawyer calling the jail that night. The lawyer was Samuel H. Plotkin.

Hoyt said some man "with an odd name" telephoned. He wasn't sure what the name was, Hoyt continued, but it was "odd to us in

East Texas. All we have is Smiths and Adams . . ."

"And Hoyts?" Gray asked with a smile.

Bearing down on the witness, Gray asked why the defendant was not awakened for the call.

"I'm not running a Holiday Inn out there," Hoyt shot back. "We don't have room service. We don't have the manpower for that." Continuing his recollection of that night, Hoyt said he did not know whether to believe it was an honest call to the jail — or "a nut." "Not all of them are in the forest," the sheriff said. "A lot of squirrels called that night."



Lost boy's dad resists tears at Henley trial

Post 1-14-74



WALTER SCOTT

MARK SCOTT
By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

Walter T. Scott said he wanted to cry as he sat in the courtroom Monday where an alleged killer of his son was on trial. "I almost broke down crying thinking about Mark," Scott said about his 18-year-old son, who disappeared about two years ago. The elder Scott was motionless as he star-

ed toward Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, on trial for the death of another youth.

"When they brought that boy out, it nearly tore me up," Scott said of the defendant. "He's nearly the same age my boy was, and they looked kind of alike."

"I looked at him and couldn't help but think of my son."

The Scotts' search for their child ended

Please see Lost/page 19A

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when the district attorney's office called and said they had located a box of keys among the possessions of Dean Arnold Corll, the alleged mastermind of the murder ring. They told him the keys had been taken from victims.

"They brought them out to the house, and we knew one of them was Mark's as soon as we saw it," Scott bitterly recalled.

"A man put it in the lock in the back door, turned it and the door opened. It nearly killed us when that happened."

Medical examiners have been unable to definitely identify any of the corpses as

Scott. Until they do, no one will be charged in the case.

"That is all right," the elder Scott said. "I am coming to this trial to see that justice is done."

"I keep telling myself that they have to be proven guilty, but I suspect they are. If they are, they should get the death penalty — I know they can't, under law, but they should."

A wood worker by trade, Scott said he has been unable to work since his family learned that Scott was a victim of the murder ring.

"This thing has been tearing me up," he said. "I'll be here. I want to see justice."

Officials screen everyone entering Henley courtroom

Post 1-14-74

By KATHY LEWIS
Post Reporter

"Don't say we are taking care of Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. This is for the protection of everyone in that courtroom, not just Henley," Lt. John J. Kiljan said Monday.

Kiljan is in charge of courthouse security arrangements for Henley's trial.

The fifth floor hallway of the Harris County Courthouse looked more like an airport corridor than a hall of justice when the hearing began.

A checkpoint was set up outside Judge William M. Hatten's courtroom, and there security officials rummaged through purses, frisked all comers and passed metal detectors over all who entered.

Everyone entering the courtroom was screened. All recording devices, packages and briefcases must be left behind.

To the surprise of security officials, several courthouse reporters routinely took a back staircase Monday and inadvertently bypassed the checkpoint. That staircase later was sealed off.

Some 50 reporters, primarily local ones, picked up credentials for the trial. Only

about half sat in on Monday's sessions. Author Truman Capote, who is filing for he Washington Post, was among them.

Reporters from all over the country are expected in for the trial itself.

No throng of spectators showed up for the maneuvers. The handful who did included members of some of the mass murder victims' families.

Kiljan said he doesn't expect a crush until the trial begins.

He stressed the tight security is not only to protect Henley and others from possible violence, but also to insure a trial free of chaos and disturbance.

"We have had no direct threats on Henley's life. There have been some rumors, but we always have those," he said.

Courtroom seating is limited to 64 reporters and 50 spectators. Other news persons will watch via closed circuit television. The overflow public will be asked to clear the floor. No congregating outside the courtroom will be permitted.

Extra guards and security measures are expected to cost the county about \$15,000 a week.

Henley 'hallucinated,' mom says of jail stay

Post 1-14-74

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

More on page 3A

Hallucinations of doors opening and people laughing marked Elmer Wayne Henley Jr.'s first few days in jail, his mother testified Monday.

Mary Pauline Henley described her son's mental condition in a controlled voice as pre-trial motions in the Houston mass murder case began in the court of Dist. Judge William M. Hatten.

Lawyers for Henley have indicated that temporary insanity could be their line of defense when trial testimony gets underway next month.

Jury selection is scheduled to start Jan. 28.

Henley faces a possible life sentence if convicted of murdering Charles C. Cobble July 27. Cobble was one of 27 young men whose bodies were found in shallow graves around Southeast Texas last August.

The discoveries came about after the 17-year-old Henley admitted shooting Dean Arnold Corll, 33, the alleged leader of a homosexual murder ring. Corll's killing Aug. 8 in Pasadena was in self defense, Henley said.

Henley and David Owen Brooks, 18, also

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charged with murder, led officers to grave sites at a Southwest Houston boat shed, at Sam Reservoir in San Augustine County and on the beach at High Island.

Defense lawyer Will Gray launched into a motion to suppress oral and written statements of Henley by attempting to show through Mrs. Henley's testimony that her son was under physical and mental stress.

Gray further tried to cast doubt on the admissibility of the statements through testimony from Samuel H. Plotkin, the Henley family lawyer, who said Henley had no legal counsel when the statements were made.

Henley was "hallucinating—seeing people who weren't there and doors opening from the wrong side" when she visited him in the Pasadena jail Aug. 9, Mrs. Henley said.

"He would see people standing at the open (jail cell) door, standing there laughing at him, and then the door would close again."

Henley was talking incoherently and had lost track of time, his mother testified.

"He never acted like that before, although he's always been a nervous person," she said.

The accused youth also appeared to have a bad cold, but she was unable to get a doctor to see him, Mrs. Henley testified.

"Wayne said he was sick. He said: 'I need a doctor—I need a doctor real bad.' He was jerking all over," his mother said.

Henley told her on the afternoon of Aug. 9 that "he had signed everything they wanted, and I could get him a doctor and a lawyer," she testified.

Plotkin told the court that he tried to send Henley his card in the Pasadena jail but was

refused by officers who explained that the card was personal property.

When he went to the Houston Police Department, where Henley had been taken "to be identified by David Brooks" Plotkin was told that Henley had gone with officers to San Augustine County, the lawyer said.

Confrontation with Houston homicide lieutenant Breck Porter led to Porter's asking him "if I wanted to fight about it," Plotkin testified. "I said I wanted to fight for the boy's constitutional rights, I didn't want to fight him in person."

Porter told Plotkin that "if the boy wanted to talk, he sure wasn't going to stop him. He said he thought Henley was guilty and didn't deserve any mercy," the lawyer said.

Plotkin testified that he called John Hoyt, San Augustine County sheriff, about 11 p.m. Aug. 9 to talk to Henley, only to have the sheriff refuse to wake up Henley in his cell.

"And there were other people up there and he didn't want to wake them," Plotkin said of his conversation with Hoyt.

On Aug. 10, Mrs. Henley retained Charles Melder and Ed Pegelow as prime counsel for her son. Plotkin was out of the case without ever having talked to Henley.

Dist. Atty. Carol S. Vance tried to show in his cross-examination of Mrs. Henley that the accused youth, although under considerable stress, was nevertheless rational.

Vance questioned Plotkin's efforts to actually make personal contact with Henley. Mrs. Henley had said on the witness stand that Plotkin did not want to handle the case because of possible damage to his reputation.

The hearing on the motion to suppress will continue Tuesday.

Detective tells court of alleged tortures

Post 1-14-74

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

Torture of mass murder victims played a prominent part in the confession of Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. as related Wednesday by a Pasadena homicide detective.

Henley told Sgt. David Mullican that glass rods and rubber sexual organs were used to torture the victims. Mullican testified in the court of Dist. Judge William M. Hatten.

The 17-year-old Henley, charged with murdering Charles C. Cobble, also 17, told the detective that some victims were castrated and

More stories/page 4A

some had hairs pulled from them, Mullican said.

Henley confessed orally to the killing of six persons and participation in the killing of six to eight others as his part of an alleged homosexual murder ring, the detective testified.

"He said he was glad to tell his story because it was a relief to get it off his mind," Mullican said.

Will Gray, Henley's lawyer, asked Judge Hatten to postpone the trial for at least six months because of what he said were inflammatory news accounts.

The prosecution opposes such a delay, although it has

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TRUMAN CAPOTE

Post 1-19-74
**Capote ill,
can't write
about trial**

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Author Truman Capote is ill and will be unable to fulfill a contract for syndicated newspaper and magazine coverage of the mass murder trial in Houston involving Elmer Wayne Henley, a spokesman for the Washington Post Writers Group said Friday.

Bill Dickinson Jr., editorial director of the Washington Post Writers Group, said he was notified "that Mr. Capote is hospitalized at an undisclosed location in the West suffering from a pulmonary condition an exhaustion and that he would be unable to fulfill this assignment."

Dickinson said the Capote series was to have run in the Washington Post and also was to have been syndicated to about 55 new papers and magazines in the United States and other countries.

"He was to begin this coverage on Jan. 27 with some advance pieces, then begin nearly daily coverage on the 28th when jury selection begins," Dickinson said. "The telegram which we received from Mr. Capote's New York agent at Random House indicated Mr. Capote was 'deeply sorry to have inconvenienced you and your clients and conveys his heartfelt apologies.'"

Police Bar Father Of Reputed Victim

Chron. 1-18-74

Sheriff's deputies refused to allow the father of a reputed victim of the sex-torture slayings to enter the courtroom for pretrial motion hearings.

The father, Walter Scott, 48, of 927 W. 25th, was refused admittance Thursday after a metal detector alarm flashed as he walked toward the courtroom.

The detector was installed to alert security guards to possible smuggling of weapons into court.

Deputies asked Scott to show them the contents of his pockets.

When Scott refused, he was denied entrance.

The incident occurred just before David Owen Brooks, 18, was brought into court to testify at the hearings of Elmer Wayne Henley, 17.

Brooks and Henley are under indictments on charges of murder in the case.

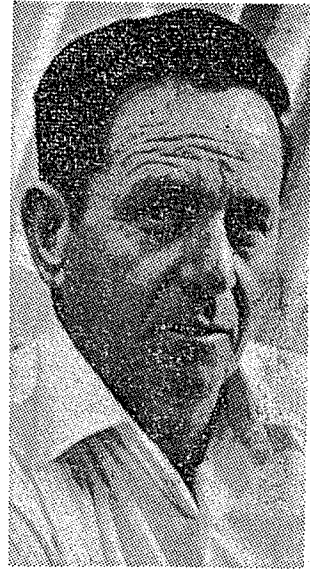
Scott's son, Mark, 17, was named as a victim by Brooks in a statement to police.

The county medical examiner's office has identified 20 of the 27 bodies.

None of the seven remaining bodies has been identified as that of Mark Scott.

Scott said today he left the courtroom after Pasadena police officers had told the court of Henley's describing the torture and murder of victims.

Scott said "I almost broke down" on a bench outside the



WALTER SCOTT

courtroom after hearing that testimony.

Upon his return, he said, the alarm probably was set off by keys in his pocket.

He said he refused to turn out his pockets for deputies because he was carrying a photograph of one of the unidentified bodies.

Scott said that the medical examiner's office believes the remains shown in the photograph are Mark's.

He said he did not want deputies to see the photograph.

Scott said he attends the court hearings in an attempt to learn more about the disappearance of his son, whom he last saw in April, 1972.

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said it would not object to a change of venue.

The testimony concerning Henley's alleged confession came on the third day of a hearing on a motion to suppress the defendant's oral and written statements.

Cobble, whose shooting death will be the issue in Henley's trial, was one of 27 victims of the ring allegedly headed by Dean Arnold Corll, 33.

With Henley's assistance, officers found the bodies of the young men in shallow graves around Southeast Texas after Henley admitted shooting Corll to death Aug. 8 in Pasadena.

Questioned by Dist. Atty. Carol S. Vance about Henley's written statement, Mullican said Henley told him he met Corll three years ago through a mutual friend, David Owen Brooks.

The 18-year-old Brooks is awaiting trial on one of four murder charges in connection with the deaths of Corll and Henley that he

was in an organization which bought and sold boys for \$200 each, especially if they were "real good looking boys," Mullican quoted from Henley's statement.

The boys were subjected to homosexual acts, sodomy and eventual killing, Mullican further quoted.

The detective said Henley told him in the statement that he helped Corll get eight or 10 boys by different methods—on the pretext of smoking marijuana, drinking beer or partying.

Henley confessed to shooting Cobble in the head with Corll's pistol July 27, on the same occasion joining Corll in strangling Marty Ray Jones, 18, Mullican testified.

"Wayne had tried to strangle Marty Jones by himself but it was too hard, so he got Dean to help him," the detective said Henley confessed.

Henley said he was personally acquainted with both Cobble and Jones and had procured them together for Corll, Mullican testified.

The two friends—Cobble and Jones—were buried in a boat shed in Southwest Houston, one of three locations

where graves were unearthed, Mullican said.

While en route to another gravesite near Sam Rayburn Reservoir in San Augustine County, Mullican said he asked Henley what would have happened if he had been stopped on a traffic violation while transporting a body for burial.

Henley told him that "there was no problem—they put the bodies in a box with a lid," the detective said. The box was one which Mullican had seen at Corll's house the day before, he testified.

The detective noted that hair had been found in the box.

Hatten interrupted Vance's questioning of Mullican to ask the district attorney what purpose he had in going into the confession in so much detail.

"We have to go into some matters other than the Cobble killing because there was a continuing conspiracy to attract young boys and make attacks on young boys," Vance replied.

There is no allegation of a conspiracy in the indictment, argued Gray.

Hatten allowed the questioning to continue.

Mullican described evidence found at Corll's house and at the boat shed. Among the items was a board 8 by 2½ feet, to which "Henley said all the victims were tied, spread-eagled, face down," Mullican testified.

Henley confronted Brooks at the Houston Police Department after making his confession in Pasadena, the detective said.

Henley advised Brooks that "he'd told us all he knew, he felt better about it and it would be better for Brooks to make a clean breast of it also," Mullican said.

Later, after returning to Pasadena, from a search for bodies at the third location at High Island and upon his transfer to the Harris County Jail, Henley asked Mullican if he would visit him, the detective testified.

"I said I would if it was possible," Mullican told the court. "Wayne said he'd enjoyed his stay with us—he'd enjoyed the way we treated him."

The hearing will resume Thursday.

Delay Asked In Multiple Slaying Trial

Defense Charges News Coverage 'Inflammatory'

By JOHN DURHAM
Chronicle Staff

A lawyer for accused multiple slayer Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, today asked a judge to postpone Henley's murder trial because of what the lawyer called "potentially prejudicial" news coverage.

The lawyer, Will Gray, told Dist. Judge William M. Hatten that "there is reasonable likelihood that the defendant cannot obtain a fair trial at this time."

Earlier, Gray filed motions seeking to prohibit use as evidence any written or oral statements Henley made about his role in the killings.

Henley has been indicted on murder charges in six of the 27 deaths of youthful males.

Authorities have said that most of the victims were tortured or sexually abused before they were slain and their bodies buried.

Jury selection in Henley's case is scheduled to begin Jan. 28.

He will be tried first in the death of Charles Ray Cobble, 17, whose body was disinterred from a boat shed in southwest Houston.

In discussing the news coverage that he finds objectionable, Gray blamed its availability on law enforcement officers and members of the staff of Dist. Atty. Carol Vance, who, Gray said, have fed this information to reporters.

Calling the information "inflammatory," Gray said it contains "material that cannot be disregarded and set aside by potential jurors in the case."

Gray also asked Hatten to enjoin lawyers and others directly concerned in the Henley trial from making public statements prejudicial to Henley. Specifically, Gray asked Hatten to prohibit statements on Henley's sanity, prior criminal record and statements in the case, or on what witnesses in the case have said or may say about the case.

Although Gray did not specify in his motion how long a delay in Henley's trial he wishes Hatten to decree, Gray said he favored a delay of about six months.

In Tuesday's hearings on the pretrial motions, lawyers questioned a Pasadena detective who said he took a statement from Henley shortly

(See POLICE, Page 14)

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after the case came to light on Aug. 8, 1973.

The detective, David Mullican, testified on Tuesday that he began questioning Henley on Aug. 8, after Henley told police he had shot to death the alleged mastermind of the sex attacks and slayings of the youths, Dean Arnold Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. employee. Henley's slaying of Corll has been held to have been in self-defense.

Corll was slain during what Henley has described as a sex and paint-sniffing party in Corll's Pasadena home. Mullican's questioning of Henley occurred later on the same day.

Mullican testified that Henley and two other young people present at the party, Rhonda Louise Williams, 15, and Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, told this story:

The trio had been at the home of Corll sniffing paint until its intoxicating fumes put them to sleep.

When they awakened, all three were bound in a bedroom with handcuffs.

Corll took Henley into the kitchen for a 30-minute talk and when they came back into the bedroom, Henley was freed.

Henley and Corll fastened the handcuffed pair to a large board rigged with ropes and handcuffs.

Corll tried to persuade Kerley to have sex with the Williams girl, but Kerley refused. Corll then tried to get Henley to have sex with the girl while Corll had unnatural sex relations with Kerley.

Henley, at that point, grabbed a pistol Corll had left on a table and told Corll to stop.

As Corll moved toward Henley, the youth shot and killed him.

Defense attorneys today continued to try to block the use of Henley's confession, which Mullican said he took after Henley had been told of his constitutional rights by a Pasadena municipal judge.

The defense contends none of Henley's statement is admissible, saying it was obtained while he was illegally detained and denied the right to consult with a lawyer.

On information supplied by Henley that Corll had killed and buried several boys in a boatshed, Henley and Pasadena and Houston detectives went to the shed in southwest Houston, where 17 bodies were eventually found, Mullican testified.

At the time he first went with officers to the shed, Henley had not admitted his

implication in any of the 27 deaths, Mullican said.

He said officers found numerous items of evidence in Corll's home, including a roll of plastic sheeting, artificial male sexual organs and marijuana cigarettes.

Henley is indicted in six of the deaths. David Owen Brooks, 18, is indicted in four of the killings.

Earlier witnesses Tuesday included one of Henley's lawyers, Ed Pegelow, who testified that Pasadena police had prevented him from talking with Henley while they completed an interview with him.

Pegelow said police stalled him about 30 minutes.

When he finally talked with Henley, he said, the youth was in a "state of shock." Henley was in no condition to intelligently waive any of his rights, Pegelow said.

Pegelow quoted Henley as saying he had already given a signed statement to police, although no one had told him of his right to consult with an attorney.

Mullican, however, testified that within three hours of Henley's arrest, Pasadena Municipal Court Judge Russell Drake had warned him of his right to remain silent and to have a lawyer.

Meanwhile, Brooks' attorney, Ted Musick, filed a motion asking Hatten to throw out any subpoenas for Brooks in the Henley trial.

Musick said Henley's attorneys had told him they intend to subpoena Brooks.

Musick said he does not want Brooks to testify because of his constitutional right against giving self-incriminating statements.

THE HOUSTON POST
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1974

Players appear as Henley trial drama unfolds

Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. never took the witness stand, but the 17-year-old alleged mass slayer was the center of courtroom attention as his case began to unfold Monday.

The wisp of a goatee, visible when Henley led authorities to burial sites eight months ago, was absent on his clean-shaven, pimped jaw and cheeks. His hair was slightly shorter, rising above his collar when he bent to jot on a white notepad at his table.

In the wrangling over admission of Henley's statement to police, a supporting cast of names and faces in the unfolding drama are beginning to appear. Some of these are:

- Mrs. Mary Pauline Henley, the accused's mother a divorcee and mother of four sons who appears older than her 34 years. Her eyes remained dry through about 45 minutes of testimony, with the only visible sign of possible emotion coming when

she curled her lower lip into her mouth briefly. Relating her thoughts on Henley, she seemed to be sincerely puzzled.

- Defense lawyer Will Gray, with a thin strip of beard tracing his jaw from ear to ear. He led witnesses through their stories calmly, occasionally injecting down-home slang into his questions to Mrs. Henley. Gray's area of expertise in the past has been in the appeals arena.

- District Atty. Carol Vance, who handled prosecution questions with the tone of a sedate preacher. His narrow collared coat and tie differed from the flashy outfits on other lawyers in the courtroom.
- Charles Melder, defense lawyer. Appearing early, with his straw hair pulled over a receding hairline and wearing a wrinkled suit, Melder had Gray handle the questioning.
- Don Lambright, assistant

- Attorney Samuel F. Plotkin, who handled divorce cases for the parents of both defendants, Henley and David Owen Brooks. Short and heavy-set, Plotkin spoke from brought smiles to the spectators with his account of allegedly being threatened with a fist fight by Houston homicide

- Lt. Breck Porter after a heated argument. He said he left the case for his health after being unable to see Henley or get his business card to the jailed youth.

- Charles Cary Cobble, 17, whose name was not mentioned Monday, but will be as the trial progresses. Cobble is the reason for this trial—his body was pulled out of a Southwest Houston boatshed two weeks after he vanished. Police allege Henley helped kill him.—GEORGE FLYNN



ELMER WAYNE HENLEY



MRS. MARY HENLEY

Mothers meet, show compassion



Mrs. Hilligiest leaves courtroom
—Post photos by E. Joseph Deering

BY KATHY LEWIS
Post Reporter

Mary Pauline Henley and Dorothy Hilligiest, two mothers torn with very different, but related anguish, accidentally came face to face outside Judge William Hatten's courtroom Tuesday.

Their eyes met and for an instant these mothers looked almost searchingly into each other's eyes.

Each tried at a choked smile and a politely blurted hello. Formally, they addressed each other by last names.

But there was no room for conversation here. No small talk. There was nothing to say between the two neighbors whose boys once played and sometimes squabbled together.

By silent agreement the encounter ended as fast as it started.

And the two mothers returned to the very different seats they fill at the pretrial hearings of Elmer Wayne Henley Jr.

David Hilligiest's body was one of 27 that lawmen were led to last August.

Mrs. Hilligiest told The Houston Post she doesn't begrudge Mrs. Henley. Occasionally they see each other in the Heights. There they also speak, but have nothing to say.

"You can't begrudge someone if you don't know for sure. Until we know everything you cannot really know how to feel towards someone."

"I have compassion for her. I think her cross is greater than mine right now."

Mrs. Henley says of Mrs. Hilligiest, "It's hard to see her and not know how she feels about me. I am sorry for her and I pray for her. I am sorry for all the 27 boys."

"But my son is still alive and he has a very hard row ahead of him. I pray for him too."

Mrs. Hilligiest and husband, Fred, plan to attend the trial daily.

The hearings are painful, Mrs. Hilligiest says. But she also says she has to be there. She has too many unanswered questions about

her son who disappeared one day in 1971.

David Hilligiest's mother wants to know the why and how that such a thing as the mass murders occurred. She wants to know how Henley could face her and inquire about her son, if he knew David's fate.

Henley reportedly helped distribute reward pictures of David for the family about a year ago.

As small boys, Hilligiest, who was 13, and Henley had played together on occasion, but they had not become best buddies, Mrs. Hilligiest said.

"This trial is going to be hard, but we have been through so much. The worst must surely be over. Nothing could possibly shock us now. I just hope this will shed some light on what happened to my David," she said.

Mrs. Henley is not allowed in the courtroom. She was called as a witness and thus under court order cannot be present to hear the testimony of other witnesses. With hands folded in her lap she sits on a hard bench outside the door. Occasionally, she peeks in the courtroom door window to get a glimpse of the back of her son's head.

She is only allowed to see her son once a week on Saturdays. Her son Paul, 16, sits alone representing the family in the courtroom. The benches in front and behind him have been vacant. "You feel awful useless and helpless sitting out here. It's horrible not to know what is going on. It's so hard to sit out here," she said. "Everyone in the world has more to say about his fate than either he or I do."

Mrs. Henley says her son has God on his side. She asks for a fair trial.

"I am his mother," she said. "Anyone in the world would know how I want it to come out."

When she comes and goes from the courthouse, she is met by onlookers who nudge each other and say, "That's her — the one in the white sweater."



Mrs. Henley, Paul at recess

7 of 27
victims
of 1-19-74
still
unidentified

Seven of the 27 youths whose bodies were recovered at three sites last summer after the mass murders were revealed are still unidentified, Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk said Friday.

But the county medical examiner said that at least three of the seven have dental work and could be named "if we get the charts."

"That will leave us four, whose identification will be difficult," he said.

The unknown bodies include four recovered from a boatshed in Southwest Houston, one from near Sam Rayburn Reservoir and two from High Island, he said.

Jachimczyk said that out-of-town records are being checked now because local information has been exhausted, though a few local records do "drift in" from time to time and are checked against the remains.

For a time it appeared that more than 27 bodies were at the morgue when the crash bag from High Island containing the last two skeletal remains produced an extra armbone and an extra hipbone.

Dr. Sheldon Green, assistant medical examiner, and Assistant Dist. Atty. Don Lambright went back to the site and combed the area, finding nothing more, Jachimczyk said. He now believes the odd bones were a result of intermingling of remains.

'I... hate him'

Post 1-18-74

By KATHY LEWIS
Post Reporter

The clashing emotions of uncontrollable hatred and restraint tumbled out as Bettye Shirley, mother of mass murder victim Marty Jones, walked out of the Harris County Courthouse Thursday where pre-trial hearings for Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. are being held.

"They could kill him and I'd be for it. It makes me

*Related
stories/
page 3A*

sick to my stomach. How could anyone put that much torture to human beings. I have to hate him. I have to sleep nights," she sobbed.

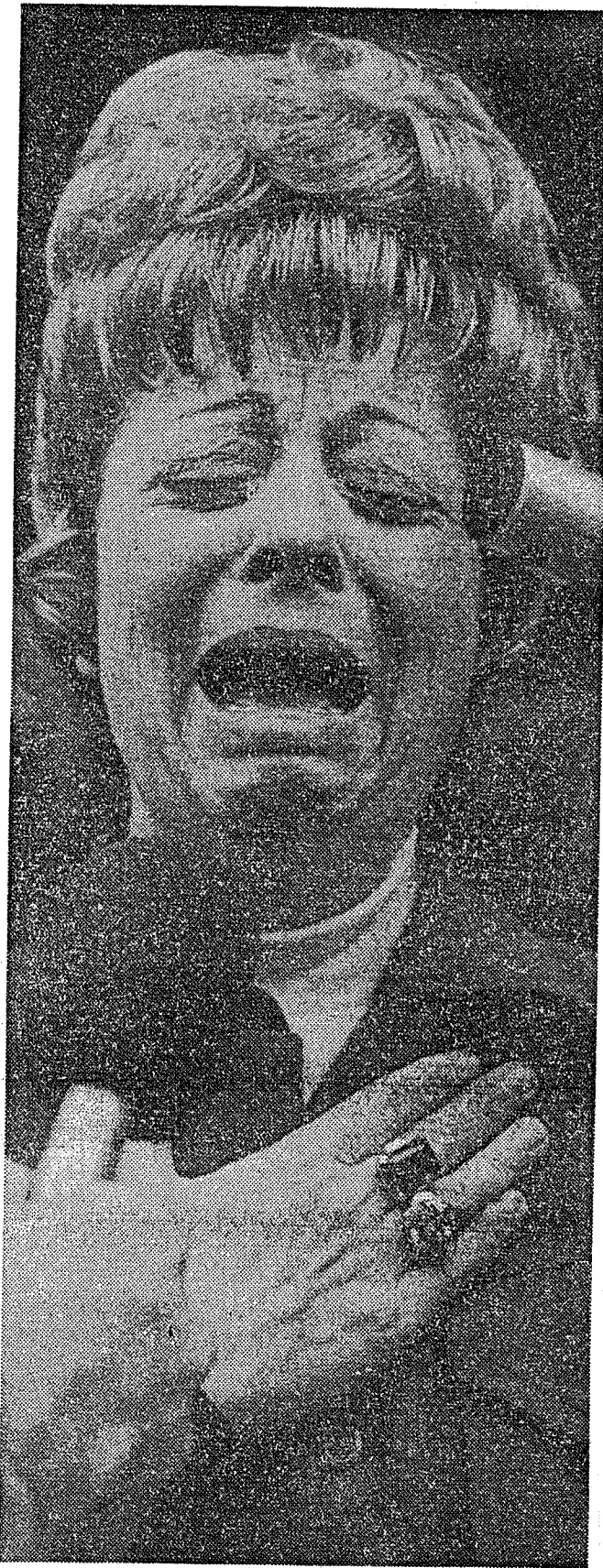
"It makes me sick to know how he must have suffered," she said referring to her son.

The mother, who since the mass murders were discovered has been seeing a psychiatrist weekly, alternately bared her hatred for Henley and restrained herself.

When asked if she felt Henley should receive a fair trial, Mrs. Shirley cried, "Did he give my boy any rights? Did he give any of them a chance?"

She said she hopes Henley gets the most time possible and that it would be a "death sentence" for all of the fami-

Please see 'I hate'/page 15A



Mrs. Shirley shows grief outside court
—Post photo by Jerry Click

From page 1

lies if he were found innocent.

But she also said she tries hard not to hate Henley.

"Do you know how I pray not to be bitter? It hurts to hate a 17-year-old boy," she said.

The scene has become all too familiar. Mrs. Shirley sat through the morning session and listened to testimony about how the victims had been tortured. She also watched David Brooks, 18, another accused in the homosexual mass murder ring, on the stand as he took the Fifth Amendment.

Later, tears began to roll down her cheeks. She sobbed openly on the elevator and by the time she reached the outside the anguish of the last few months poured out openly. She also broke down fol-

lowing the midmorning break.

Mrs. Shirley and young Deborah Cobble Elliott, who at one time was married to victim Charles Cobble, embraced as their words of anger poured out.

When asked why they put themselves through the ordeal of the hearings, both said they came for answers.

"I come because I need answers. Now I know who died first," Mrs. Shirley said. Police officers testified that Henley said he had with Dean Corll's help strangled Jones after Henley had shot Cobble.

Mrs. Elliott said she came because "I want to know why Charles was killed."

Mrs. Shirley said her psychiatrist approved of her attending the hearings.

Charles Cobble and Marty Jones lived together at the time they apparently were abducted. Their apartment

was three doors down from Elmer Wayne Henley's home.

Cobble and his wife were separated.

Both boys disappeared on July 27. Mrs. Shirley learned two days later that Cobble's mother and Jones' father had each received calls from the boys saying they were "in trouble." Jones reportedly asked his father for \$100.

Mrs. Shirley and Jones' father are divorced.

Mrs. Shirley cashed a \$1,000 certificate and came to Houston to try to find her son. Neither boy called back again.

On August 8 Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. led police to a southwest Houston boatshed. Charles Cobble's and Marty Jones' bodies were among the ones uncovered there.

Mrs. Shirley says life was going very well for her son at the time he disappeared. She

had dinner with him the night before and said, "He was happy. He was very together. He did not seem to have any problems."

She said Jones loved living with Charles because Charles was like a brother to him. They had lived together off and on for about two years.

Marty had a job delivering flowers, but was getting ready to quit to learn the roofing business, she said.

Mrs. Shirley said the only drug her son used was marijuana and he didn't smoke that in her presence. She said she used to caution him because he was too trusting of everyone, including his friends.

The only "dickers" she had with her son and Charles were because they didn't go to school. Jones dropped out of the 11th grade.

She's Haunted By Why Husband Murder Victim

Chronicle 1-17-74

BY CRAIG SMYSER

Chronicle Staff

She comes to court to find out why.

Why her then-husband, Charles Cobble, 17, was killed.

When she sees Cobble's accused slayer, Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, sitting a few rows in front of her, at his pretrial hearing, she feels bitterness, some hate and a terrible sadness.

Difficult Time

"Charles' death haunts me. It's so hard to sit there in court with Wayne only a few rows ahead of me knowing I can't say anything to him. I can even ask him why."

Her name is Deborah Cobble Elliot. She is 16. She sits in a brown chair at her parent's home at 8026 Van Hut in far Northeast Houston.

"When I came home today from court, I lay on my bed and cried," Mrs. Elliot said. "I try to keep my feelings in. My parents tell me I should put all this behind me. 'Charles is dead,' they say. 'It's all past.'"

Outside a motley rooster struts by and crows while she lifts her hand to stop a tear.

"Part of My Life"

"They don't understand. I was married to him," she continues. "He'll be a part of my life for the rest of my life."

"They don't understand I still love Charles."

Mrs. Elliot remarried on Dec. 13 without realizing, she says, how much she still loved Charles Cobble.

Although she and her second husband are now separated, he doesn't want her to attend Henley's trial, she says.

But she says she will go to the trial if she can get a ride to the courthouse.

Deep Feelings

"I still know how deeply I feel for Charles and I know I'll never see him again."

Mrs. Elliot looks around at the bare walls but seems to see her first husband's face instead.

"I blame myself for his death," she says. "It's worse that we were separated. Maybe if I'd been there, it wouldn't have happened."

"But what gets me down deep is that he lay somewhere dead for two weeks. And then his body was uncovered in a paper sack. My God, he was buried like an animal."

Her words come without pauses.

Dreams of Photos

She says she still dreams of photos of police uncovering the 27 bodies.

Cobble's body was unearthed in a boatshed in southwest Houston shortly after the case broke Aug. 8.

Pasadena Police Detective David Mullican testified Wednesday that Henley told him that he (Henley) shot Cobble in the head.

Mrs. Elliot says she and Cobble separated two weeks before his July 25 disappearance with Marty Ray Jones.

But, she says, Cobble had called her two days before he vanished and promised to pick her up so they could live together again.

Neither Visited

She says neither Henley nor David Owen Brooks, 18, who is charged with four of the murders, visited her first husband at their apartment.

However, Jones lived in the same apartment complex and was a constant visitor, she says.

She says Cobble took no drugs other than tranquilizers his doctor prescribed for his nerves.

"I resent people jamming all 27 youths into the category of runaways," she says. "Charles worked for a living at a nickel plating factory."

She says her first husband loved his parents and they lived with the elder Cobbles for a while after their marriage.

"Won't Ever Know"

"There are so many things I won't ever know about Charles' death," she says quietly. "All of us at the trial pray that Henley will be put on the stand so he can explain, give us a reason, tell us why."

"I can't help it, but I wish Wayne Henley the worst," she says. "Those boys and my husband didn't get a chance, so why should he get one?"

She drops her legs to the floor and looks around.

"I have no plans for my life, no ideas," she says. "I can only hope to find some answers. It is part of me I will always have to live with; I only hope I can learn to understand why."



Photo by Orie Collins, Chronicle Staff

SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHY
Deborah Cobble Elliot Talks About Slain Husband



AP Photo

MRS. SELMA WINKLE OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE
She Wept When Torture Details Were Revealed

Torture Detail Rekindle Grief In Victim's Mother

Chronicle 1-17-74

BY MIKE LONSFORD

Chronicle Staff

She had come to live with the fact of her son's death weeks and months softened the pain.

But after sitting in a hushed courtroom listening of the tortures her son may have endured, Mrs. Winkle ran outside in tears.

She could stand it no longer.

"If I could've got to Wayne Henley today, I'd hit him," she said later.

Then her tone softened.

"How could they have done it," she asked over her shoulder.

"How could God look down on this and not do anything? Why couldn't God stop it?" she asked, and begged again.

Missing Two Years

Her son, Gregory Malley Winkle, 16, was identified in September as one of the 27 victims of the sex torturers here. He had been missing for two years.

Mrs. Winkle, 406 W. 26th in the Heights, had listened to the testimony in the pretrial hearing of the multiple slayer Elmer Wayne Henley.

She had been stoic at first, but the testimony shook her reserve.

She heard Pasadena police detective David Mull that Henley had described to him how some of the victims were castrated and others had glass rods and artificial sex organs inserted into them.

Should Be Tortured

The persons who committed such acts should be tortured themselves, "and then hanged by the neck until dead," Winkle said.

She said that while she knew some aspects of the tortures, she had known little of the alleged tortures.

"I couldn't bear to hear of it," she said. "I sent out newspapers to my sister in Illinois."

She spoke of the testimony that glass rods had been used on some of the victims.

"A boy would've just died from the shock. That's what big letters, isn't it?"

Although Winkle was identified as one of the 27 victims, she has not been established publicly which victims she was tortured.

Henley Not on Dope

"Wayne (Henley) wasn't on dope," Mrs. Winkle said in voice breaking. "I talked with Mrs. Henley. He never was not to have been on dope all the time."

Henley is charged in six of the murders, but Mrs. Winkle's death.

Mrs. Winkle said she had known Dean Corll, 33, a Houston Lighting & Power Co. employe alleged to have minded the multiple slayings.

However, she said, she had only known him vaguely. She had worked several days in the Corll family store in the Heights when "they were overloaded."

Mrs. Winkle said it "was unfair" that Henley, allegedly admitting taking part in tortures and slaying "three hot meals a day and a headache pill" in jail.

"They gave the boy a sedative after he had used the rod and castrated those boys."

Mrs. Winkle said she believes that Henley will get a life in prison or be declared insane.

She said she feels sorry for all the mothers involved in the case. Not just the mothers of the victims, but the mothers of the accused killers.

"I don't know how they can live with it," she said Wednesday was Mrs. Winkle's last day to come to court.

She said she can't take any more.

Judge OKs removal of Henley lawyer in 5 pending cases

Post 3-6-74

Judge William Hatten accepted a motion Tuesday which removed Charles O. Melder as attorney for Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. in five pending mass murder cases.

Melder, who filed the motion, already resigned as the lawyer of record in the sixth murder case against Henley, 18. That case, for the alleged killing of Charles Cary Cobble, 17, was moved on a change of venue from Houston to San Antonio.

No trial date has been set. Henley and his current lawyers, Will Gray and Ed Pegelow, were present for the brief morning hearing on Melder's motion. Dist. Atty. Carol Vance, who is prosecuting the case, also attended.

Melder cited the reason for the withdrawal as a "disagreement among counsel in the conduct of the case."

He argued with Pegelow and Gray — who he had hired to help with the case — over their decision to seek a trial delay and place Henley on the witness stand during a February pretrial hearing.

Melder thought testimony from Henley possibly could prejudice a future jury

through the flood of publicity it would cause.

The testimony could give prospective jurors a view of the defendant's mental state which could offset testimony by psychiatrists, he said.

Gray, who does not intend to have his client testify during the trial, said he had Henley take the stand at the pretrial hearing to repudiate police testimony about Henley's statements to officers.

Pegelow said the dispute was a difference in professional strategy.

Judge Preston Dial, who will preside over the San Antonio trial, set a pretrial hearing in the case for April 8.

Henley and David Owen Brooks, 19, were charged after law officers uncovered the bodies of 27 boys buried in shallow southeast Texas graves last August.

The alleged mastermind of the homosexual mass slaying ring was Dean Arnold Corll, 33, who was allegedly shot in self-defense by Henley Aug. 8, 1973.

No trial date has been set for Brooks, who was charged in four of the killings.

Third Lawyer Is Selected To Aid Henley

Chron 6-2-74

San Antonio (UPI) — Former State Rep. Rudy Esquivel has been appointed by District Judge Preston Dial to assist in the defense of a Houston teen-ager accused in the killings of 27 youths.

Esquivel, whose name was selected in a random drawing, will assist two court-appointed attorneys from Houston in defending Elmer Wayne Henley, 17.

Henley is charged in six slayings. Jury selection begins July 1.

Section 4, Page 7

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Sunday, June 2, 1974

Body Discovered With Sex-Torture Case Victims

Slain Youth Assured Mother Death Threat 'Only a Joke'

The mother of one of the 27 youths whose bodies were unearthed last August in the sex-torture slayings here said Saturday she knew of a threat to kill her son just before he disappeared, but that he told her it was a joke.

"If only I hadn't believed it was a joke, I would have kept him at home the night he disappeared," said the mother, Mrs. Manning R. Sellars of Orange.

The body of her son, John, 18, was identified Friday. It was one of those found buried on High Island last August 10 after Elmer Wayne Henley, 18 and David Owen Brooks, 19 led police to seashore graves of several youths.

She said her son had told his younger brother, Tim, 15, that "someone wants to kill me, and they're going to bury me on the beach."

When she pressed her son about the threat, she said, he told her it was "only a joke."

"Oh, mother, don't worry, it's nothing," she said, her son, John told her three days before he disappeared on July 10.

The mother said she later learned that he berated Tim for "telling on him," and that he told his younger brother

that "I know how to load shells for my gun and I'm not afraid of them."

She said her son loved to hunt, so she did not think it was unusual when he left home with one of his rifles.

Her son's car, destroyed by fire, was found, near Starnes, La., about a week after he disappeared, she said.

"I felt certain he was dead when he didn't call us within a month, because he was always the kind of boy who couldn't stand to be long away from home," she said. "I only regret I didn't take him seriously."

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance said Sellars may not have been involved in the sex-torture slay-

ings that came to light here after Henley admitted shooting Dean Arnold Corll, 33, an electrician, on August 8.

Vance said several factors indicate Sellars was not a victim in the sex-torture killings:

His body was found two or three miles from the other five bodies dug up on High Island.

He was shot four times in the chest with a large caliber weapon while the other victims were killed by strangling or with small caliber weapons.

He was fully dressed but none of the other victims was clothed.

Assistant Dist. Atty. Don Lambright said Sellars was the

reported missing July 12 and his body was found Aug. 10. Sellars was not mentioned in any of the confessions in the sex-torture cases, Lambright said.

Henley, indicted in the deaths of six of the victims, and Brooks, charged in four of the slayings, blame most of the killings on Corll.

The two youths led authorities to gravesites in a southwest Houston boat shed, near Lake Sam Rayburn in East Texas and on High Island.

Lambright said Sellars might have stumbled into the multiple slayings case while traveling along High Island. "He could have wandered

up on the beach and seen something he wasn't supposed to see," he said.

Orange Police Chief Leslie C. Jones said he had not been contacted by Houston police about the possibility of Sellars being involved in the multiple slayings, but that he would talk with Houston police this week.

Teen feared plot

Post 6-2-74

A teen-ager who is believed to have been one of the 27 victims of a sex-torture killing ring told his brother two days before he vanished that someone was out to kill him.

The youth, John Manning Sellars, 17, of Orange, was confronted with the information by his mother when she heard of it but Mrs. Manning R. Sellars says her son dismissed it as "nothing to be worried about."

He disappeared July 12, 1973 and his body was discovered in a beach grave at High Island in Jefferson County last August. The burned-out sports car that he was last seen in was discovered in Louisiana.

"As far as I know he had no friends in Houston. He had only been there once before. The night he left, he simply went out and said he would be back in a little while," Mrs. Sellars said Saturday.

Sellars had a Browning semi-automatic rifle with him when he left, according to his mother, who said authorities have not told her if that was the weapon used to kill him.

Sellars had four gunshot wounds in the chest but the bullets were not recovered since they passed through the body.

"I don't know if he was one of the mass murder victims or not," Mrs. Sellars said.

Harris County Medical Examiner Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk said Sellars was the only victim shot with a high-caliber gun. The others were either strangled or shot with small-caliber weapons.

Neither was Sellars body in one of the lime-covered plastic bags as were the bodies of the other victims.

Elmer Wayne Henley, 18, and David Owen Brooks, 19, are charged in some of the killings. Dean A. Corll, the alleged mastermind of the murder spree was shot by Henley last August.

Companion of Henley due to testify today

By PETE WITTENBERG
Post Reporter

A youth who was with Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. when Dean Arnold Corll was shot to death Aug. 8 is expected to testify Tuesday as the seventh day of mass murder pretrial motions gets started.

Largely repetitious testimony Monday marked a hearing on a motion to suppress the 17-year-old Henley's oral and written statements. Police detectives and a television news photographer took the witness stand.

Timothy C. Kerley, 20, who accompanied Henley to Corll's home in Pasadena, was prevented by illness from appearing Monday afternoon, said Will Gray, Henley's lawyer.

If Gray's schedule works out Tuesday, he will follow Kerley's leadoff testimony with that of Rhonda Williams, 15, the third member of the Henley group at Corll's house.

Police say Henley admitted killing Corll, 33, in self defense after awaking from a paint sniffing party and finding himself, Kerley and Miss Williams handcuffed. He persuaded Corll to free him, police say.

Henley later led investigators to three locations around southeast Texas where the bodies of 27 young men were dug up.

Corll allegedly headed a homosexual murder ring which procured victims for acts of sodomy, torture and eventual death.

Henley is indicted for murder in six of the deaths. He faces trial on a charge of murdering Charles C. Cobble, 17, when the motions are completed.

The accused youth told officers during a search for bodies Aug. 9 in San Augustine County that Corll had put slabs of slate over

victims in their graves to prevent wild animals from digging them up, a Houston homicide detective testified Monday.

Corll started using the slate after he discovered one body had been unearthed and had to be reburied, Detective K. D. Porter said Henley told him.

"We found the slate about one foot under the ground," Porter testified in relation to the digging near Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Houston Homicide Detective James P. Paulk testified Henley told him that he had made several trips to the location in the East Texas woods with Corll and David Owen Brooks, 18, in Corll's white van.

"Sometimes he'd sit in the van, sometimes he'd get out and help them bury," the officer said Henley told him.

Brooks is charged with murder in four of the deaths.

Detective Lt. Breck Porter of the Houston homicide squad gave his version of a squabble with Samuel H. Plotkin, a lawyer for Henley's mother who testified earlier that he almost got in a fight with Porter when he tried to see Henley.

"He kept on, and I got irate and raised my voice," Porter said. "He went on his way."

Porter testified he had told Plotkin that Henley was in the custody of Pasadena police but Plotkin was under the impression that Houston police had him.

Fred Edison, in charge of news photography for KPRC-TV, brought into court a copy of a news film taken Aug. 8 in which Henley told his mother over a radio telephone, in one of the station's cars that he had killed Corll.

The brief film was shown in a darkened courtroom.



Kerley during noon court recess

—Post photo by Bill Thompson

Anger Also Flares

Henley Flip, Sarcastic In Jousting With DA

Chron 1-25-74

BY VAN HETHERLY
Chronicle Staff

"I don't know."
"I can't recall."
"I haven't the slightest idea."

Elmer Wayne Henley speaking, his voice edged with sarcasm, repeating these phrases again and again to questions from an exasperated Dist. Atty. Carol Vance.

Once, when Henley believed Vance to be smiling at him, he angrily snapped, "Mr. Vance, I suggest you go and shoot a man and then come back here and grin at me."

Vance maintained composure in the face of open antagonism from the witness, who stayed on the stand all day Thursday in his pretrial hearing.

Examples of Henley's retorts:

"Are you telling me what I

said or asking me what I said?"

Asked the size of a knife he used to cut the clothes from a bound Rhonda Williams, 15, shortly before killing Dean Arnold Corll:

"I didn't take time to analyze it."

Asked how Corll put a pair of handcuffs on Henley during the sex-paint sniffing party:

"Have you ever seen a pair of handcuffs?"

Pressed to pinpoint a time period:

"I don't keep 'em with time. I don't believe in time."

Typical exchange:

"I just answered that question."

"What was your answer?"

"I don't know."

Henley's mother, barred from the courtroom because she is a witness, peered at her son through a small window in the door.

His brother, Paul, 16, who closely resembles Henley, hunched forward on his bench and listened intently. So did his grandmother, Mrs. Christeen Weed, whose fingers played over her lips and were never still.

Smoking constantly on the stand, Henley wore a coat and tie for the first time in court, replacing his usual khaki shirt and flared plaid pants.

In stature, Vance and Henley's lead attorney Will Gray, accentuate the defendant's slightness (about 5-9, 135 pounds). His once long brown hair has been neatly trimmed to collar length. A wispy moustache accents his thin face.

School records put Henley's IQ at a good 119. He made A's and B's through the seventh grade at Hamilton Junior High School, then abruptly slumped to D's and F's, even flunking physical education. His mother and father divorced about this time and he

dropped out of school after the eighth grade.

Testifying Thursday, Henley said he did satisfactorily in school. Asked by Vance if he could read and write, Henley replied, "If I've a mind to."

Testimony revealed that Henley attempted to join the Navy, lied to an application question about his history of drug abuse and was rejected on the grounds that he'd only finished the eighth grade.

Henley told Vance that when free he took THC, a derivative of marijuana, "as often as I can get my hands on it," smoked marijuana and drank alcohol every day, took LSD and barbiturates.

He said he had never undergone psychiatric treatment.

Henley has been examined by state and private psychiatrists and the results reportedly are mixed.

He complained Thursday of blackouts, LSD flashbacks and severe pains in his head, chest and stomach.

He also has complained to jailers that he'd like permission to take more showers. He worries about pimples.



Deborah Cobble Elliot appears pensive at the courthouse Wednesday as the pretrial hearing for Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. adjourned for the day. Her husband was Charles Cobble.

Henley holds secret session with lawyers

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hearing began earlier when participants met with Hatten to discuss press coverage of the proceedings. They met in chambers again Tuesday to hear testimony from a minor.

Hatten said he was "very happy" with press coverage so far, especially with respect to Rhonda Williams, 15, who as a juvenile delivered her testimony in private.

Miss Williams was present in Corll's house when he was killed, police say.

Hatten said none of the testimony he has heard so far would lead him to recommend a change of venue for the Henley trial. He said such a recommendation would hinge on future testimony.

Defense lawyers have considered a change of venue motion and rejected the idea, Pegelow said. "I do not believe there will be less coverage if the trial is held anywhere else," he explained.

Henley appeared smiling Wednesday as his eyes met those of his grandmother, Mrs. Christeen Weed. The youth customarily scans the courtroom for family members upon entering.

Mrs. Weed, sitting with Henley's brother, Paul, and other family friends, sent a grin back to the accused seated at the defense table. Henley responded with another smile.

Gray said that Henley's testimony Thursday would go into his side of the police interrogation process.

Detectives have testified that Henley voluntarily confessed after waiving his statutory rights.

When Henley finishes on the witness stand, Gray will probably start right into a motion for continuance, based on pre-trial press coverage, the lawyer said.

Gray said he was drawing up a list of witnesses, including reporters, to subpoena for the hearing on the continuance motion.



Pegelow interviewed at courthouse

—Post photos by Bill Thompson

Henley, lawyers talk in closed-door session

Post 1-24-74

A growing tendency to conduct court proceedings in private in the mass murder pretrial hearings expanded still further Wednesday as the defendant spent almost two hours in closed-door consultations.

Dist. Judge William M. Hatten said Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. did not testify in chambers but spent most of the time conferring with his lawyers regarding his proposed appearance on the witness stand.

A court reporter accom-

panied opposing counsel to the secret session.

Lawyers Will Gray and Edwin F. Pegelow said Henley would probably testify Thursday. Hatten recessed the court early to give lawyers and client the rest of the day to confer.

A ruling on a defense motion to suppress Henley's oral and written statements is not expected until early next week, Hatten said. A hearing on the motion began Jan. 14.

Henley faces trial on a charge of slaying Charles C.

Cobble, 17, one of 27 victims of an alleged homosexual murder ring headed by Dean Arnold Corll, 33.

The murders came to light after Henley, police say, shot Corll to death at Corll's Pasadena home Aug. 8. Henley and David Owen Brooks led officers to burial sites around Southeast Texas.

Henley, 17, is indicted in six of the deaths. Brooks, 18, is indicted in four of them.

The closed-door trend in the

Please see Henley/page 25A

Henley lawyer watching for appeal

Post 1-21-74

By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

Lawyer Will Gray, strutting into the courtroom and pushing up black-rimmed glasses, will continue his look for flaws Monday in the state's case against his client—accused mass slayer Elmer Wayne Henley Jr.

Henley's lawyer dominated questioning during the first week of a pretrial hearing on Gray's motion challenging Henley's confessions to officers.

When the hearing ends late this week, Judge William M. Hatten said the court will take up Gray's motion for a trial delay. Seven years ago, a jurist viewed

Gray's pretrial motion activity with scorn.

"You are not going to make a farce of my court with all these pretrial motions," Criminal Dist. Judge Sam W. Davis told Gray in court. "I won't rule

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Lawyer for Henley watches for appeal

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on some of them until the trial itself."

Davis, however, saw Gray file 38 motions prior to the murder trial of Victor Eugene Miller II.

"We had a reason for filing every motion and wish to be heard on every motion," Gray had replied.

The 48-year-old defense lawyer was the subject of kinder remarks from the bench on another occasion. U. S. Dist. Judge Woodrow Seals told a suspect he was going to appoint "one of the best lawyers in Texas" as his defense counsel. Seals then named Gray.

Twenty-four convicts in Texas also had praise for Gray. All of their death sentences were overturned after he took over their appeals.

"I guess I got more personal satisfaction from those cases than the highly publicized ones," Gray said.

About half his cases are appeals. Gray's more publicized defenses include the Lee Otis Johnson and Gerry Charlotte Phelps trials.

"We had very similar circumstances (with the Henley case) as far as the

publicity these cases received," Gray said.

Johnson was sentenced to 30 years for giving an undercover policeman a marijuana cigarette. The local black activist had his sentence erased after four years when an appeals court ruled that he had not received a fair trial in Harris County because of the publicity surrounding the case.

Mrs. Phelps, a former economics lecturer at the University of Houston, was convicted of armed robbery in 1969 and sentenced to 35 years in prison. Police said the stolen money was to be used for financing revolutionary activities.

The attorney received notoriety of sorts himself in 1971, when his name appeared on a list of people allegedly spied on by Army intelligence agents. Walter B. Birdwell, 28, reported that Gray and a few legislators and activists were watched by agents.

Gray has worn longer hair, accented by beard and mustache, for about four years, he said, although the voice is unmistakably clean-shaven Texan.

San Augustine Sheriff John Hoyt, in testimony last week, complained to Gray that he was just an "East Texas boy"

and didn't understand some of the bigger words used in the questioning.

"I'm an ol' East Texas boy myself," Gray replied with a hint of sarcasm matching the sheriff's. Born in Palestine, Gray spent most of his youth in Huntsville. He received his law degree from South Texas College of Law.

He said he accepted part of the Henley defense—with lawyers Ed Pegelow and Charles Melder—because "it might be interesting as far as the questions on the admissibility of those confessions and things like that.

"Basically, this is just another murder case," Gray continued. "Of course it is several murders, but the state can only try them one at a time."

He said the fact that the death penalty is not being sought also "takes the heat off somewhat."

Gray has shrugged off the fact that most of Hatten's rulings have gone against the defense. He said that can be expected "at this level" of court—indicating that an appeal is almost certain if a jury eventually returns a guilty verdict.

"You might say that's in the back of my mind," Gray said with a smile.



JOSEPH JACHIMCZYK

Work continues to identify mass slaying victims

Post 1-22-74

By GEORGE FLYNN
Post Reporter

The dark marks on the list in the Harris County medical examiner's office are one of the few happy signs around these days.

About 50 names now remain from a list of 200 possible mass killing victims.

"It feels real good every time we can take a name off the list," said Dr. Joseph Jachimczyk, medical examiner.

"That is at least something to be grateful for."

Names of possible victims have flooded into his office from around the nation. Jachimczyk's staff began their search for identities of victims when the first bodies were unearthed Aug. 8.

They remain, compiled on the list, until the office receives notification that the missing young men have been found.

"The coroner in Erie, Pa. contacted me just the other day," the medical examiner said. "He had sent the name of a colleague of his son who was missing and could have been a possible victim."

"Well, the boy showed up. We were happy to eliminate him from the list."

Jachimczyk's last identification of victims came Oct. 9, when brothers Billy Baulch, 17, and Michael Baulch, 15, were named as the 19th and 20th of the 27 victims.

Since then, Jachimczyk and his staff have been working on the final seven in the medical examiner's office in the Criminal Courts Building, three floors beneath the courtroom where a pre-trial hearing on Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. is taking place.

Henley, 17, is a co-defendant in six of the killings.

The work on the remains is sandwiched between daily violence in the county.

The medical examiner estimates that his staff has put in "about a year" in man hours seeking identity clues on the mass killings.

"We look for anything we can," he said, "getting details of the disappearance, medical history, dental charts and more."

The bodies had been in the makeshift graves for as long as three years.

Of the remaining identified bodies, one from near Sam R. Reservoir, two from and four from the Southwest Houston

Jachimczyk said poured over the remains in the absence of pe sessions on the cor them even more identify.

The remains are morgue after being examined, charted and analyzed—even but identified, the examiner sadly noi

Judge Hints He Might Move the Henley Trial

BY JOHN DURHAM
Chronicle Staff

The judge hearing pretrial motions for accused multiple slayer Elmer Wayne Henley says he may move the trial from Houston, despite defense objections, if evidence shows that Henley cannot get a fair trial here because of publicity.

Dist. Judge William M. Hatten said he will have to balance the publicity problems against Henley's right "to be tried in his own community, with his witnesses close at hand."

Defense attorneys say they do not want to move the case, but Hatten said he can transfer it on his own initiative.

Dist. Atty. Carol Vance says he will support any effort to move the trial.

Will Gray, one of Henley's lawyers, has asked Hatten for a six-month delay in the trial, citing "prejudicial publicity."

Hatten plans to begin hearings on that request upon completion of the current hearing on a defense plea that Henley's oral and written statements be barred from his trial.

Hatten said he thinks the evidence he would hear on the postponement request would be similar to that presented on any motion to transfer the case.

If that evidence shows that Henley might not receive a fair trial here, Hatten said, he may order the case moved.

"Publicity alone does not mean he (Henley) cannot get a fair trial," Hatten said. The question is, he said, whether jurors can put the publicity aside and consider only what they hear from the witness stand.

In pretrial testimony Tues-

day, Timothy Cordell Kerley, 20, described how he escaped an attempted sexual assault at the Pasadena home of Dean Arnold Corll, 33, reputed mastermind in the sex-torture murders of 27 young men here.

Kerley testified that Henley,

17, accused of killing six of the victims, shot Corll to death Aug. 8 while Kerley and Rhonda Louise Williams, 15, were strapped to a board in one of Corll's bedrooms.

The girl testified later, but in Hatten's chamber.

Hatten said he took her

testimony in private because she is a juvenile and he wanted to shield her from the publicity from open court remarks.

Kerley, outside the courtroom, said he was glad Henley had killed Corll because, if he hadn't, "I had enough

sense to be aware that I was to be killed.

"I'm definitely lucky to be alive," Kerley said. "There were 27 before me."

He said he, Henley and Williams had gone to Corll's

(See JUDGE, Page 6)

Judge Weighs Moving Trial

FROM PAGE 1

home "specifically to get the (paint) sniff and return to my apartment." They had not planned a sex party, Kerley said.

He said they stayed at Corll's house because "it was more convenient. I was low on gas, it was late and it was across town to my apartment."

Kerley, in his courtroom testimony, said the trio had been sniffing acrylic and drinking beer and white lighting, which he described as "almost pure alcohol."

He said he awoke to find the Williams girl and himself strapped and handcuffed to a 4-by-8-foot plywood board.

He said Corll was trying to commit sodomy on him.

At that point, he said, Henley grabbed a gun and told Corll, "You've gone far enough."

Corll, nude, "jumped up and ran at him (Henley) with his arms up in the air, saying, 'Kill me, Wayne, kill me,'" Kerley said. Henley shot him "five or six times," Kerley said.

Kerley was joined outside the courtroom by his mother, Edna Kerley.

She said, "Everything (in the media) has been misconstrued, everything. There has been a lot of wrong information. It's all been very distressing. We and our friends have prayed and prayed."

'I'd love to forget it'

Post 1-23-74

By GEORGE FLYNN

and KATHY LEWIS

Post Reporters

Although it had been six months since Timothy Kerley's hands were bound to Dean Corll's torture board, he twisted and wrung them Tuesday as though his ordeal had just ended.

"I'd like to forget," the tall, 20-year-old eyewitness to Corll's death said. "Oh, I'd love to forget it. But with the grand jury and all this it's been hard."

He emerged from the Harris County Courthouse at noon, talking publicly for the first time since Aug. 8.

He had just told a court how Elmer Wayne Henley Jr. shot Corll about four

feet from Kerley in Corll's Pasadena home.

"We woke up and I thought we were getting busted or something at first," Kerley said of Corll's handcuffs binding his wrists to the grisly board that morning.

"Then I realized what was going to

Please see 'Oh/page 19A

'Oh, I'd love to forget it,' witness says

From page 1

happen."

Kerley paused briefly and went on, swallowing hard first.

"I knew Dean was going to kill us. I figured I was going to be dead," he said.

"It was going to be my turn."

The beltless lad had hints of yellow around his eyes. He fielded questions while remaining near his mother.

"It wouldn't have been a worthwhile experience if I hadn't learned something from it," Kerley said. "I know now not to trust everybody."

"I do not treat people wrong when they are nice to me. He (Corll) was generally nice before then."

His mother, Mrs. Edna Kerley, agreed about her son.

"He had a great faith in God to trust and love people," she softly added. "He was a most honest and trustworthy person."

Kerley admitted going to the Pasadena address to "sniff" some acrylic (paint), but condemned news reports that a wild sex and drug party had taken place.

"It just wasn't that way," he said. "I went over there to sniff some acrylic and then go back to my apartment."

Mrs. Kerley, her hair wrapped tightly in a bun, told of news reports: "Two columns and quote-quote-quote, and I had not even talked to anyone."

The days after the discovery of 27 bodies were particularly difficult, she said, adding that the Kerleys had clung to their faith in God.

"We prayed often," she said, "and

many people were praying for us."

Inside the courtroom earlier, Mrs. Kerley had stared at the floor and grimaced as attorneys led her son through his recollection of the Corll death.

Her eyes were occasionally glassy with tears, although the petite woman's cheeks remained dry.

During the noon recess, Kerley was responding for the third time to news media questions.

He told again of his thoughts while bound to the board which had allegedly held previous victims.

"Let's go," his mother said in a tone slightly above a whisper. She tugged at his wrist and repeated, "Let's go."

With that, they broke away from the dwindling group on the sidewalk and stepped briskly from the courthouse under an overcast sky — neither mother nor son ever looking back.